FBIS DAILY REPORT

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ARAB LEAGUE COUNCIL CONTINUES MEETINGS IN CAIRO

NC0161552 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1500 GMT 1 Apr 78 NC

[Text] At today's meeting the Arab League Council decided to allocate $25 million as aid to the African states which have been stricken by drought, particularly Mauritania. The council also decided to consolidate African-Arab cultural and information solidarity and to participate in cooperation between the Arab and African states as stipulated by the first Arab-African summit conference. The council also decided to form a committee of some Arab states to draw up the final form of the fund for supporting the steadfastness of the citizens in the occupied Arab territories, the regulations concerning the fund's use and the financial estimates necessary for it.

The council also approved plans for strengthening the Arab-European dialog in the coming phase as well as Arab nominations to UN posts. The council will resume its meetings tomorrow to complete the discussion of the topics before it.

Saudi Minister Interviewed

NC0108502 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0655 GMT 1 Apr 78 NC

[Text] Cairo, 1 April--Saudi Foreign Minister Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal has stated that solving Arab differences is the responsibility not of one state but of the Arab League, which must work to restore Arab solidarity. In an interview published today by the newspaper AKHBAR AL-YAWM, the Saudi foreign minister said that if the current efforts to restore Arab solidarity fail, this will have adverse effects on all Arabs.

The Saudi foreign minister expressed regret at the absence of some Arab states from the Arab League Council meetings, particularly in these circumstances. The Saudi foreign minister said that Saudi Arabia supports the holding of an Arab summit conference. He said that Saudi Arabia is currently holding contacts with the Arab states to prepare for this conference, which is considered of paramount importance at this stage in order to bring about the unity of Arab ranks.

Moroccan Minister Interviewed

NC0108312 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0650 GMT 1 Apr 78 NC

[Text] Cairo, 1 April--Moroccan Foreign Minister M'hamed Boucetta has affirmed that the meetings of the Arab League Council have been very successful despite the fact that some states tried to jeopardize the success of the meetings by boycotting them. In an interview published today by the newspaper AKHBAR AL-YAWM, Boucetta said if these states believed that by not attending the Arab League Council meetings they would torpedo the Arab League and its institutions, they have been disappointed.

The Moroccan foreign minister said that the Arab League Council meeting has been attended by 17 states, including the PLO, and that most of these states have been represented by their foreign ministers. He added that this has been one of the council's most important meetings. The Moroccan foreign minister said that his country supports the holding of an Arab summit conference to discuss means of restoring Arab solidarity. It also supports the call by Sudanese President Ja'far Numayri urging the Arab states to return to the Arab League fold.

Meetings End on 2 April

NC0213312 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 2 Apr 78 NC

[Excerpts] The Arab League Council ended its meetings today. Arab League Assistant Secretary General Dr Sayyid Nawfal stated that the council endorsed the decisions which have been adopted regarding the extension of the mandate of the Arab security forces in Lebanon for another 6 months and approved the Arab states' contributions to the fund for financing these forces.

The council approved the recommendations of the conference of officials responsible for the affairs of the Palestinians in the host Arab states and called on UNRWA not to decrease its services to the Palestinians. The council called on the states to increase their contributions to this agency.

The council decided to form a committee of Egypt, Jordan, Sudan, Saudi Arabia, Palestine, Kuwait and the Arab League Secretariat General to draw up the financial regulations of the fund for supporting the steadfastness of the Palestinian people under occuption

The council also approved the bases for strengthening cooperation between the Arab and African states and decided to form Arab working groups to promote this cooperation.

'ARAFAT MEETS WITH JOINT FORCES COMMANDERS

JN011828Y Voice of Palestine [Clandestine] in Arabic to the Arab World 1600 GMT 1 Apr 78 JN

[Brother Abu 'Ammar, commander in chief of the Palestinian revolution forces, spent all day yesterday among the fighters in the joint forces positions in southern Lebanon. He praised the high spirits of the fighters as well as the steadfastness and confrontation with which they faced the Zionist invasion.

Meanwhile, Brother Abu 'Ammar held a meeting in the south with the military command that includes all factions of the Palestinian revolution and the Lebanese Nationalist Movement. He briefed the military commanders on the military and political situation. He also gave instructions regarding the need to strengthen steadfastness and enhance the fighters' spirit of struggle.

LEBANESE NATIONALIST FORCES DISCUSS SITUATION

JN012022Y Voice of Palestine [Clandestine] in Arabic to the Arab World 1600 GMT 1 Apr 78 JN

[Text] The Central Political Council of the Progressive and Nationalist Forces and Parties held a followup meeting on the evening of Friday, 31 March 1978, during which it discussed the developments of the general political situation in light of the statement issued by the council and published in its press conference on Wednesday, 29 March 1978.

The council studied the wide reactions to the above-mentioned statement on the popular level and the atmosphere of mobilization which surrounded it, since it indicates the way for firm national confrontation against the Zionist occupation and all colluding tools and defeatist forces. The council also pointed out the huge political reactions which have begun to appear in reply to what the so-called Sa'd Haddad is perpetrating in the south, starting with his announcement of the formation of an armed clique attached to the Israeli army and falsely attributed by him as being attached to the south in an attempt to give it a Lebanese identity.

The council has found in the widening scope of the general political demand for a definite official stand toward Sa'd Haddad and the army issue a positive indication of the beginning [words indistinct] of forces for their responsibility in the face of the Israeli occupation and its plans, which are aimed at uprooting the national identity of the southern region.

The council discussed the results of the contacts made by its committees with the various nationalist circles and other broad political circles. The result of the contacts made so far is that the stand supported by the overwhelming majority is the nationalist one, which calls for considering the question of the Israeli occupation the only real question, which should have absolute priority and which calls for closing all the files some people are trying to open in order to deal a blow to the desired national unity in the face of the Zionist enemy.

The council also studied the phenomenon of the increasing popular campaign which calls on the authorities to adopt clear and decisive stands toward all matters related to the main danger which threatens the Lebanese national destiny, namely, the danger of consecrating the Zionist occupation and striking at the unity and Arabism of Lebanon. The council reaffirmed the need to call on the authorities to assume full responsibility in dealing with the issue of the evacuees, which still faces a totally unjustified negligence.

Finally, the council discussed the overall mobilization measures which are being undertaken by the nationalist movement in implementation of its central slogan: "Fight against the Zionist enemy and for the liberation of territories and protection of the homeland."

CEAUSESCU INVITES 'ARAFAT TO VISIT ROMANIA

JN030845Y Baghdad INA in Arabic 0826 GMT 3 Apr 78 JN

[Text] Beirut, 3 April--Press reports said here today that PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat has received a letter from Romanian President Nicolae Ceausescu dealing with developments in the Arab area in the aftermath of the Zionist occupation of southern Lebanon.

The newspaper AN-NAHAR, which published the report citing diplomatic Arab sources, said that President Ceausescu has extended an invitation to 'Arafat to visit Romania soon. The paper points out that 'Arafat decided to accept the invitation. The visit was expected to take place today. However, 'Arafat postponed it for a few days.

'ARAFAT MEETS WITH CUBAN AMBASSADOR IN BEIRUT

FL020030Y Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 0000 GMT 2 Apr 78 FL

[Text] Beirut--Palestinian resistance leader Yasir 'Arafat has met with Cuban Ambassador to Lebanon Alberto Velazco. They discussed the Palestinian people's present situation.

'ARAFAT RECEIVES INDIAN AMBASSADOR IN BEIRUT

JN021540Y Voice of Palestine [Clandestine] in Arabic to the Arab World 1500 GMT 2 Apr 78 JN

[Text] Brother Abu 'Ammar, chairman of the PLO Executive Committee and commander in chief of the Palestinian revolution forces, yesterday afternoon received the Indian ambassador in Beirut.

During the meeting, the ambassador stressed India's stand in support of the struggle of the Palestinian people. Brother Abu Ammar also explained to the Indian ambassador the latest political developments in the region, especially after the Zionist invasion of southern Lebanon and the heroic battle waged against the invaders by the joint forces.

ABU IYAD: PALESTINIANS ADHERE TO CAIRO AGREEMENT

NC011122Y Cairo MENA in Arabic 1000 GMT 1 Apr 78 NC

[Excerpt] Beirut, 1 April--Fatah Central Committee member Salah Khalaf, also known as Abu Iyad, has stated that the Palestinian resistance adheres to the Cairo Agreement and considers it the best way for streamlining relations between the Lebanese authorities and the PLO.

In an interview published by the Lebanese newspaper AN-NAHAR today, Abu Iyad says that the implementation of the third phase of the Shtawrah Agreement pertaining to the south is the best way to avoid any differences between the Palestinian resistance and the Lebanese authorities. He affirmed that all efforts should now be concentrated on achieving the Israeli withdrawal from Lebanon and on resuming the implementation of the agreements between all parties.

ABU IYAD EXPRESSES DOUBT ABOUT UN ROLE IN LEBANON

LD021202Y Tripoli JANA in Arabic 0700 GMT 2 Apr 78 LD

[Text] Beirut, 2 April, JANA--Brother Salah Khalaf, member of the Fatah Central Committee, has called on the Palestinian resistance to be at the highest state of alert and vigilance in following the movements of the UN emergency forces in Lebanon. The tasks and role of the UN forces have not been clearly outlined as yet.

Abu Iyad warned in a statement to JANA in Beirut today that he feared that the UN forces' task was the internationalization of the Lebanese problem and the elimination of the national presence of the Palestinian revolution in Lebanon. Abu Iyad said that up to now the task of the UN forces has not been outlined because Security Council Resolution 425 is not defined and could be interpreted in many ways. Khalaf pointed out that if the UN emergency forces were to replace the Zionist forces in the south, like the situation at present when they are deep into Lebanon and not on the border as is common in UN practice, he would not exclude the possibility of an attempt to extend the presence of international forces over the whole of Lebanon, particularly the Iranians and the French.

The aim behind this would be to get Syria out of Lebanon and internationalize the Lebanese problem in addition to dealing a blow to the Palestinian revolution in Lebanon. Abu Iyad called on the Palestinian resistance to be at the highest state of alert and vigilance in following movements of the UN emergency forces in carrying out their task of guaranteeing the withdrawal of the Zionists from the south.

Abu Iyad added that he believed that the coming days would confirm one of two possibilities: Either the UN task is to supervise the Zionist withdrawal from the south, or the coming days will reveal that they intend to do something other than the task with which they were entrusted.

Answering a question as to whether he believed that the Palestinian-Zionist war in the south would lead to the creation of new alliances at the Arab level, Abu Iyad said that he believed that the Arab attitude toward As-Sadat's initiative should remain as it is at present so that things would not be confused, because that would fulfill one of the objectives of the Zionist attack--the objective of clouding people's memory of the initiative of the Egyptian president by organizing a campaign against all the confrontation and steadfastness states. He added that we have begun to hear noises at the Arab level, especially from those calling for Arab solidarity, and I say if Arab solidarity is for fighting and mobilization against Zionist then one has to salute moves toward military solidarity against Zionism, but if the aim is to philosophize, we are against it.

PFLP MOURNS DEATH OF MEMBER WADI' HADDAD

JN11400Y Baghdad INA in Arabic 1300 GMT 1 Apr 78 JN

[Text] Beirut, 1 April--The Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine [PFLP] has mourned the death of one of its founders and leaders, Dr Wadi' Haddad, who died Tuesday of a chronic disease. The PFLP said that martyr Haddad spent 30 years of his life in assiduous struggle to mobilize and urge the Palestinian Arab people to struggle against the Zionist invasion of Palestine and to chart the road of popular armed struggle, which he believed was the only way to liberate Palestine.

The PFLP said that Haddad was one of the founders of the Arab nationalist movement and of the vengeance youth organization, which is the struggling organ of the Palestinian movement.

The PFLP gave a biographical sketch of the deceased and the political activities he waged in defense of the Palestinian issue. It said that he was born in Safad, in occupied Palestine, and was graduated from the faculty of medicine of the American University of Beirut in 1952.

Body Arrives in Baghdad

JN011608Y Baghdad INA in Arabic 1504 GMT 1 Apr 78 JN

[Text] Baghdad, 1 April--The body of martyr Dr Wadi' Haddad arrived in Baghdad this afternoon. Present at the airport to receive the body were Dr Munif ar-Razzaz, assistant secretary general of the Ba'th Party; Tariq 'Aziz, Ba'th Party National Command member; Sa'dun Shakir, Regional Command member of the party; a number of party officials and members of the political committee of the Palestinian revolution in Iraq.

Habash To Attend Funeral

JN011904Y Baghdad INA in Arabic 1850 GMT 1 Apr 78 JN

[Text] Baghdad, 1 April--Dr George Habash, PFLP secretary general, arrived in Baghdad today to attend the funeral of martyr Dr Wadi' Haddad. In a press statement Dr Habash said: We have come to Baghdad to attend the funeral of martyr Wadi' Haddad, one of the strugglers against imperialism and Zionism. Dr Habash pledged his determination to work for the victory of the causes of our nation for which Dr Haddad gave his life.

C1

KUWAIT

LIBYA'S EFFORT TO SAVE BHUTTO SUPPORTED

LD011006Y Tripoli JANA in English 0940 GMT 1 Apr 78 LD

[Text] Kuwait, 1 April, JANA--Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi received this morning a cable from the Prince of Kuwait Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad as-Sabah, praising the efforts exerted by the Jamahiriyah to save the life of the Pakistan former Premier Bhutto.

YEMEN--PDRY

'ALI NASIR MUHAMMAD POSTPONES PRC VISIT

LD311841Y Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 31 Mar 78 LD/EA

[Summary] The ADEN NEWS AGENCY reports that Prime Minister 'Ali Nasir Muhammad has put off his visit to the PRC and several countries of Indochina, due to start tomorrow, for health reasons.

YEMEN--YAR

AL-GHASHMI RECEIVES MESSAGE FROM KING HUSAYN

JN301450Y San'a' Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 30 Mar 78 JN

[Text] Lt Col Ahmad Husayn al-Ghasmi, chairman of the command council and commander in chief of the armed forces, received in his office before noon today Salah ash-Shar', Jordanian ambassador in San'a'. During the meeting the ambassador conveyed to brother Al-Ghashmi a written message from His Majesty King Husayn.

OFFICIALS RECEIVE CABLES OF THANKS FROM PRC

From Hua Kuo-feng

JN011502Y San'a' Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 1 Apr 78 JN

[Text] Lt Col Ahmad Husayn al-Ghashmi, chairman of the command council and commander in chief of the armed forces, has received a cable of thanks from the premier of the State Council of the PRC. The following is the text of the cable:

Lt Col Ahmad Husayn al-Ghashmi, chairman of the command council and commander in chief of the armed forces, San'a': I would like to express my sincere thanks for your cable of congratulations on the occasion of my appointment as premier of the State Council of the PRC. I wish the cordial relations between our two countries further development and growth.

[Signed] Hua Kuo-feng, premier of the State Council of the PRC

From Huang Hua

JN011504Y San'a' Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 1 Apr 78 JN

[Text] Brother 'Abdallah al-Asnaj, minister of foreign affairs, has received a cable of thanks from Huang Hua, PRC minister of foreign affairs, in reply to the cable Al-Asnaj sent him on the occasion of his appointment as foreign minister.

AS-SADAT TALKS WITH AMERICAN BUSINESSMEN

NC311554Y Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1500 GMT 31 Mar 78 NC

[Text] This afternoon, President Muhammad Anwar as-Sadat met with a delegation of American businessmen. President as-Sadat delivered a statement at the outset of the meeting. He began his statement by welcoming the members of the delegation and asked them to convey his thanks to the American people for their understanding and cooperation. President as-Sadat added: We shall remain sincere friends of the American people and we will never forget the aid they have given to Egypt.

Moreover, President as-Sadat expressed his sincere sentiments for President Carter and the American congressmen. He said that the Egyptian people will remain grateful for all the help and aid they get. The president expressed his appreciation for President Carter's attitude of working to achieve peace based on justice in the Middle East.

MENA Report on Meeting

NC311940Y Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1830 GMT 31 Mar 78 NC

[Text] At his meeting today with a delegation of American businessmen, President Muhammad Anwar as-Sadat said: We demand the liberation of all territories Israel occupied in 1967. We also demand that the Palestinians be granted the right of self-determination within a period of 5 years. The president added: Menahem Begin must abandon the hardline policy which he is following and which nobody agrees with. Nobody can agree with what Begin said in his speech to the Knesset when he referred to his discussions with U.S. President Carter. President as-Sadat went on: No Arab can possibly agree to this hardline policy of Begin, who wants peace, the land, sovereignty and everything else at the same time.

The president added that he had asked 'Ezer Weizman today to tell Begin that Begin has not yet responded to his peace initiative. President as-Sadat added: The peace initiative is firm. We will be ready to start the negotiations when we reach a common language in order not to disappoint the entire world again, by breaking off the discussions.

President as-Sadat began his meeting with the delegation of American businessmen this afternoon with a statement welcoming the members of the delegation and asking them to convey his thanks to the American people for their understanding and cooperation. The president said: We will remain sincere friends of the American people and we will not forget the aid they have given to Egypt. The president also expressed appreciation for President Carter's attitude of working to achieve peace based on justice in the Middle East.

During the meeting, President as-Sadat answered a number of questions posed by the members of the American delegation to his excellency. Replying to a question on the Israeli Government's stand on the peace initiative, he said he believes that Israel is not ready to accept his initiative. President as-Sadat said he is prepared to establish neighborly relations in every sense of the word but that he will not agree to the squandering of a single inch of territory or of sovereignty. The president added that as for the question of security, he is prepared to discuss this question. He said he has submitted six points which could serve as a basis for solving this problem.

The time has not yet come for Israel to accept our proposals. We hope to give a thrust to the peace process in order to reach an arrangement which would push it forward and consolidate the foundations of peace in the area.

Asked about the problem of the Palestinian refugees, President as-Sadat replied: The political aspect of this problem will be solved as soon as Israel declares that it will withdraw from the territories occupied in the June 1967 aggression. If such a declaration is made and each of the parties concerned discusses the question of security with Israel, then the refugees problem could be solved at this level.

Asked what went on during today's discussions [with Weizman], the president said he had informed the Israelis this time that we are searching for peace and not for bilateral settlements. We want to reach a final peace in the area and the peace initiative was taken for this purpose.

The president added that when the Palestinian problem is solved and the question of Israel's security is discussed, he will be prepared to sign an agreement with the Israelis. Syria will also follow, as it has always done. The president referred in this respect to Syria's stand on the first disengagement agreement and its attitude during the 1949 Rhodes negotiations. He said that as soon as we had signed the truce, the Syrians came and sat with the Israelis in the same room while we did not sit with the Israelis at that time. The Syrians then signed the truce.

To a question on the role of the United States, the president said that what he wants the United States to do is to play the role of a full partner in his problem. The United States is neither a mediator nor an observer, and it should not limit its action by basing it solely on its role as cochairman of the Geneva conference.

Replying to a question on the attitude of the Soviet Union, the president said that the Soviets have flooded the Arab world with allegations and claims that As-Sadat and Carter are searching for a separate agreement and that they are against the Arab world and so on and so forth. The president added that Menahem Begin, by his hard attitude and line, which we can never accept, is handing over the cards of the game to the Soviet Union.

The president then referred to the split that has occurred in the rejectionist front and the exchanges of attacks between Al-Qadhdhafi and Al-Asad. The president said that he asked Weizman today to ask Begin to be flexible because the hard line which Begin is adopting is spoiling everything.

CAIRO RADIO CALLS WEIZMAN'S TALKS 'FAILURE'

NC3115502 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 31 Mar 78 NC

[Fawzi Surur commentary: "Elements of Peace in the Middle East"]

[Excerpts] Israeli Defense Minister 'Ezer Weizman is scheduled to submit a report to Prime Minister Menahem Begin on his talks in Cairo after his return to Israel today. It would be premature to predict what Weizman will report. However, it is certain that he will convey the general impression that his visit to Cairo was unsuccessful.

The unsuccessful outcome of Weizman's visit to Cairo is due primarily to Tel Aviv's disregard of the elements of peace and those basic components which are necessary for the establishment of peace in the Middle East. This failure is equaled only by the failure of the barbaric, aggressive expansionist adventure against southern Lebanon and the Palestinian people. This failure is another link in the chain of unsuccessful results of the efforts and moves made by the Israeli leaders and of their political, military and information plans.

Thus, we come to the main causes for the Israeli failure in all of its aspects as far as the question of peace in the Middle East is concerned. These causes are contained in the Egyptian peace initiative on which Egypt insists because it is the natural solution for the Arab-Israeli conflict, which places the area in a chronic state of crisis.

Egypt has clearly declared that there will be no peace without withdrawal from the occupied Arab territories and that there will be no peace without Palestine and a solution to the Palestinian question, because this is a political question connected with the rights of a people. It is only Zionism and imperialism which dispute the right of this people to self-determination.

Not even the United States, which has very special relations with Israel, has been able to depart from this broad basis for peace, which has been accepted on various levels throughout the world. The United States has to a large extent declared its commitment to these conditions despite the pressure from Zionist pressure groups. These groups have not ceased their efforts to persuade American public opinion and the U.S. decision-making circles to assume an attitude of total and unconditional support.

The unquestionable failure of Begin's visit to the United States and his talks with President Carter was natural and expected. Consequently, the tragic end of the peace efforts would have not happened had it not been for these Israeli stands which contradict the aim of establishing peace. This explains the failure of Weizman's talks in Cairo. It also explains the failure which will befall any future Egyptian-Israeli visit or meeting as long as the Israeli viewpoint continues to be dominated by traditional and obsolete concepts that are connected with the pretext of so-called Israeli security.

Israel at 'Crossroad'

LD011415Y Cairo Voice of the Arabs in Arabic 2130 GMT 1 Apr 78 LD

[Amin Basyuni commentary]

[Excerpts] The difficult formula in front of which Menahem Begin stands confused is how to accommodate his intransigent and illogical attitudes and his eagerness to appear to the world as though he is striving toward peace and rather calling for the resumption for the talks for the sake of peace.

The difficulty of this formula materialized after the failure of his latest visit to the United States, a failure which led to the failure to issue a joint statement on the visit and made international observers describe his talks there as the most difficult talks an Israeli prime minister had ever had with U.S. officials. The visit confirmed the clear differences between the attitudes of Menahem Begin and those of U.S. officials concerning the interpretation of Security Council Resolution 242, the settlements issue and the participation of the Palestinians in determining their fate.

Menahem Begin returned to Israel to face an international feeling of disappointment over the possibility of Israel's responding seriously to the peace efforts and to face deep anxiety in Israel with regard to the outcome of the possible--even rather certain--confrontation between Israel and the United States. The opposition in Israel expressed this anxiety when it accused Begin of leading relations between Israel and the United States into this impasse.

Begin has tried to emerge from this impasse in two ways. First, the attempt to hint that the United States is intervening in Israel's internal affairs and working for the removal of Begin from power, in order to create a national feeling in Israel to stand behind him in confronting the expected U.S. pressure attempts. However, U.S. officials have hastened decisively to deny this, thus dismissing Begin's excuse. Second, by quickly sending Israeli Defense Minister Weizman to Cairo and Foreign Minister Dayan to Washington, imagining that in this way he can get out of the impasse and make the world believe that he is moving.

All international observers have started to ask: What can Moshe Dayan say in the United States only a few days after the visit of Begin himself, which brought about the impasse? What did 'Ezer Weizman bring to Cairo that can be regarded as new in relations to the cause of peace? Cairo received him and listened to him. However, it announced that there was hardly anything new as regards the main issue: the cause of peace in the Middle East. This announcement dotted the i's and crossed the t's and defined the attitudes and responsibility.

These attempts by Begin have only one interpretation: that he is trying to avoid the main issue and give the impression that there is movement of a kind, while reality says that he is still holding to his old intransigent attitudes and that the amendments he made came in the phrasing or the methods of movement. In short, Begin has so far not responded to the peace initiative. This is the truth and an accurate summing up of the situation.

President as-Sadat explained this truth in his statements to the delegation of U.S. businessmen who met him yesterday. He said that he asked Weizman to tell Begin that Begin has so far not responded to the peace initiative and that Egypt is not looking for secondary settlements but is striving to achieve final peace in the region. President as-Sadat explained that the Arabs' demands are very clear and that they stem from justice and right, in which the world's belief and sympathy are growing day by day. We are not asking for more than the liberation of Arab lands under occupation since 1967 and the granting of the right of self-determination to the Palestinians. On these two supports peace efforts can be based and move toward their desired objective. Avoiding this will only lead to an impasse or to a vicious circle.

From all this it transpires that Israel is standing at a crossroad and that it must decide and choose whether it is ready to adopt what it calls "hard decisions" which are in fact not difficult. However, the difficulty as far as Israel is concerned stems from the fact that they contradict all its old dreams of expansion.

TEXT OF AS-SADAT INTERVIEW WITH OCTOBER MAGAZINE

NC021620Y Cairo MENA in Arabic 1453 GMT 2 Apr 78 NC

[Text] Cairo, 2 April--President as-Sadat has reasserted that the peace process will not stop. Its pace may not be the same at all times but the process must continue. President as-Sadat expressed surprise that some Arab rejectionist have denounced 'Ezer Weizman's visit to Egypt. He then asked: Why shouldn't he come and why shouldn't we receive him at any time?

In an interview granted to Anis Mansur, chief editor of OCTOBER magazine, published 2 April, President as-Sadat firmly declared: Since the initiative was taken, we have decided to establish contacts so that we may reach a common understanding. The whole world has changed since my peace iniative. I do not wish to reiterate what the world knows and what those who are deluded know but refuse to announce openly to their people.

The President then asked: How will I know Israel's views and proposals if there is no contact between our two countries? How will I know if Israel desires to hold fresh discussions or resume the dialog if I do not meet with one of its men? President as-Sadat went on to say that there is no longer any room for secrecy: I will not bury my head in the sand after today. I will say all that I have to say and I must hear everything they say.

President as-Sadat revealed for the first time what took place during his talks with 'Ezer Weizman. He said that the 2 hours he spent with the Israeli defense minister were divided into 10 minutes for a discussion of Sinai, 30 minutes for a discussion of southern Lebanon and 80 minutes for discussion of the Palestinian issue. The text of President as-Sadat's interview follows:

Question: Before Israeli Defense Minister 'Ezer Weizman came to visit you in Al-Qanatir al-Khayriyah, some Arab newspapers and radio stations made strong denunciations, asking: How can you meet with the Israeli defense minister after what has happened in southern Lebanon, after Menahem Begin has adopted obstinate stands and after all his repeated statements on the whole issue and the peace initiative?

Answer: This situation is not new. Some Arab brothers, particularly those who take political analysis or political deception as a profession, denounced Egypt's positive, public stands before they were taken and have denounced them since. The meaning of this is known, and I have often said it: It is distrust and hatred of Egypt and deception of the peoples in the brother countries. Regrettably, this is a principled attitude toward Egypt just as Egypt's attitude concerning the solution of the Arab issue is principled, completely sincere, honest and courageous. Egypt's initiative is only an example of what Egypt is doing and what some of the Arab rejectionists, who deceive their peoples and who are themselves deceived, are doing.

I am really surprised that anyone should denounce 'Ezer Weizman's visit to Egypt. Why shouldn't he come and why shouldn't we receive him at any time? We decided at the beginning of the initiative that we would maintain contact so as to understand and come to some understanding with one another. This decision was permanent.

The whole world has changed since my peace initiative. I do not want to repeat what the world knows, including those analysts and those who brag to their people. We have all had some experience in how not to settle matters, how to complicate matters and how to erect barriers of mistrust and thorns of doubt, with everything in the end remaining as it is. For 30 years the Arabs never changed their ideas and never shifted their positions, and everything got worse.

In his memoirs, Ben-Gurion says: "The situation requires a courageous Arab leader who will negotiate publicly with Israel." Ben-Gurion knew that there were secret negotiations and contacts, and he was aware of the statements which were prompted by fear.

My peace initiative was made publicly and in broad daylight, under the eyes of millions of people in the world who saw it via satellite. For the first time, the world saw our Arab case clearly and objectively as I explained it at the Knesset, in the very heart of Israel. This is because I am an advocate of peace, not a warmonger. There is no need for war as long as peace is possible, and there is no need for fighting--which is possible at any moment--so long as peace is possible.

How will I know Israel's views and proposals if there is no contact between us? How will I know if Israel desires to hold a new discussion or resume the dialog if I do not meet with one of its men? There is no longer any need for secrecy, and I will not bury my head in the sand any more. I will say all that I have to say, and I must hear everything they have to say. Lest the outbidders go too far, we announced the significance of the Israeli defense minister's visit moments after he left Egypt.

Question: One interpretation of the Visit, even before it took place, was that it meant the resumption of the Military Committee meetings and that it would not be long before the Political Committee would resume its activity, despite Menahem Begin's intransigent declarations in Washington and in the Knesset--even more intransigent than before.

Answer: 'Ezer Weizman's visit did not mean the resumption of the work of the Military Committee. He came in his capacity as an Israeli minister and official. This visit is a link in the series of contacts initiated between Egypt and Israel to prevent a stalemate and to prevent the situation from returning to what it was before the initiative, although such a return is impossible because the world has changed completely since the initiaitve. Nobody, whether he means well or not, can take us back. This is an obvious historical fact. Neither the Military Committee nor the Political Committee will meet unless there is a change warranting the resumption of the meetings of one of the committees, or both. When that happens, I will announce it. We do not have a two-faced policy and we do not follow two different lines. None of us wants to be an acrobat in international politics who plays with the destinies of nations for the sake of a certain position or as part of party maneuvering.

All that happened was that the Israel defense minister cabled the Egyptian defense minister, General al-Jamasi, asking if they could meet. The answer was: no objection. So, Weizman came and I met with him in the presence of Vice President Husni Mubarak and General al-Jamasi. Weizman was bound to have something to say. This was natural because his visit was not a picnic on which he would have a cup of tea and go back with his companions. He came to break the deadlock in the peace initiative.

Question: What is meant by "breaking the deadlock"? And since we announced immediately after Weizman left Cairo that the situation had not changed and that the two committees would not convene, doesn't this mean that the deadlock continues? Doesn't this induce some to say that the visit has achieved nothing and that Israel is attempting to play with us and is craftily trying to convene the Military Committee?

Answer: This again confirms the continuous distrust of whatever Egypt does. But I see the situation very simply and clearly. Egypt decided on a direct contact and dialog between it and Israel without a third party.

This is continuing. Isn't this clear? It is definitely clear. How can any rational person imagine how either of us could know the other's view if we did not receive first class information from responsible official sources? I affirm that this is the way. We have closed the secret channels which many resorted to in order to be in touch with Israel. We decided that our contacts should be open, in broad daylight.

If it is not clear that this meeting was not a resumption of the Military Committee, I repeat here that it was not. There is no reason to reconvene the two committees unless new ideas or new proposals are made. Should this happen, we will announce it and so will they.

The allegation that one of us is playing with the other is a strange statement because the situation is serious and vital. We do not play with peoples' destiny. The ones who do so are those who play with words, slogans and outbiddings. The destiny of people is not an easy thing. We do not belittle our people nor do we disgrace ourselves to such an extent as to play with words and expressions. On Sunday Weizman will brief the Israeli Cabinet on our discussions. A debate will naturally follow. We must wait and see what will be said.

I am not disturbed by the attempts to cast doubts on Weizman's visit after what had been said about the initiative itself, which was much more than a mere meeting. They said that Egypt has surrendered. They said that Egypt has sold out everything cheaply or that it has sold out itself for nothing. They said that Egypt has said nothing.

I am entitled to ask whether Egypt has said nothing despite all that it said before the whole world as witnessed by hundreds of millions who appreciated it greatly. What have the others said and demanded that is more than what Egypt demanded for them? What was said in their party committees and provocative campaigns that was more honest and more noble than what Egypt said in Israel, Europe and in the United States.

What a difference between all that they said and that Egypt said. What action have they taken when the situation has called on them to do something, anything? Many things have happened. I am ashamed to mention them. My desire to preserve whatever is left of Arab fraternity prevents me from revealing this, for it would make friends and enemies alike see what disgrace some Arab leaders have descended to.

With my initiative I destroyed a large section of the psychological barrier between Egypt and Israel--the barrier of suspicion, distrust, misjudgment and rejection of all logic. Israel should have completed demolishing the remaining part of this psychological barrier between us, but Menahem Begin is still incapable of making any contribution toward this. The man is an old statesman or an old guard like Golda Meir. Israel must decide what is best for it in order to establish the peace which everyone desires. I am well aware of all that is said in Israel, in its political lobbies, parties and committees, and of what the Jewish organizations in the United States and the world are saying. However, Begin's hard line and intransigence concerns Israel first of all. We must wait and see what will happen after this visit.

As I have repeatedly said, there is no doubt that the peace process is continuing. However, peace, like construction, is slower than war and destruction. Therefore, it must take time. We must be patient and we must not be drawn among the spiteful and the spectators at the same time.

Question: The very little that we have said about Weizman's visit will open all doors for more efforts and outbiddings. Then, what can be said about the meaning or the reasons for the visit?

Answer: As I have said before, contacts in various clear forms are necessary between us and Israel in order to explore points of view and continue the peace process. Whatever has been said about the meaning of the visit, I do not guarantee that many more doors will not be opened for efforts, outbiddings and political delusions. This no longer worries me because it always proves the clarity of our stand. A proberb says: The stronger the light the darker the shadow. There is a great difference between the clarity that has illuminated the issue and the casting of doubt that has thwarted it. Nevertheless, it can be said that we discussed two important topics. The first topic, which was natural, was what had taken place in southern Lebanon. That was an urgent, crucial topic. The second topic was what had happened to the peace process after the suspension of the Political and Military committee meetings.

Therefore, the first topic was not the peace initiative--its progress, movement and slowdown. It was the Lebanese topic. It was necessary for me to learn from the Israeli defense minister what had happened and how it had happened, how the situation had developed, how it had deteriorated and, more important, how it would end.

Before Weizman's arrival, I sent a message to Israel via the United States in which I fully objected to Israeli occupation of southern Lebanon. I said very clearly that Israeli occupation of southern Lebanon will be a principal obstacle in the way of peace and that it will be impossible to sit together as long as there is one Israeli soldier on Lebanese territory. Therefore, it is illogical and unacceptable that Israel should occupy Lebanon while we are seeking to achieve its withdrawal from all the Arab territories it occupied in 1967. I did not announce the fact that I sent that message by way of the United States, because it would not add anything new and because Egypt's stand remained unchanged. It is a stand of principles and ethical values--a stand which Egypt has openly adhered to and continues to do. No one had asked us to do that, but we are committed and this is a national Egyptian requirement which we carry out without any impetus from outside.

Does the action that Egypt has taken disturb the Arabs and their naive security? If it disturbs them, then what do they have to gain from these slanderous and inflammatory stands? Those who are afraid should secretly ask themselves, before they openly preoccupy themselves with Egypt's stands: What have we done for the sake of Lebanon or for the sake of the entire Arab cause?

Weizman told me officially that not a single Israeli soldier will remain on Lebanese territory a minute after the UN emergency forces take up their positions. That was an Israeli Government decision.

The second topic that we discussed was the peace initiative. It was natural that I should listen and speak. I listened and I emphasized Egypt's principled stand, which is that Egypt adheres to the letter and spirit of Resolution 242, which was issued by the UN Security Council in November 1967. This means withdrawal from the occupied territories with slight amendments to be made to the West Bank by the parties concerned. I affirmed the need for solving the Palestinian question, which is the essence of the dispute. I emphasized all this finally and unequivocally.

I told 'Ezer Weizman: Even if a separate peace agreement is achieved with each of the parties without solving the Palestinian question, there will never be peace in this area. This means that solving the Palestinian question in its political and humanitarian aspects is necessary and vital. The political aspect is the West Bank and the Gaza Strip and the humanitarian aspect is the refugee problem.

It remains for me to tell those whose hobby is judging others, those who find pleasure in judging Egypt without judging themselves, that the 2 hours the Israeli defense minister spent with me were used as follows: a 10-minute discussion on Sinai, a 30-minute discussion of southern Lebanon and an 80-minute discussion of the Palestinian issue.

If we talk about the Palestinian issue, then it is natural that we discuss the question of Israeli security as well as Palestinian and Arab security. The problem of security is fundamental to Israel.

The Israelis were terribly frightened after the October war because it destroyed their security wall as well as all their erroneous assessments of the situation and of the capabilities of Egypt and Arab solidarity.

In the last pages of his book "On the Wings of Eagles," 'Ezer Weizman said: The Yom Kippur war came, but we were not prepared for it. The Israeli leaders had not assessed the situation properly. They had not thought of the developments that could take place. Their improper assessment of the situation was due to the fact that it had never occurred to them that we would be capable of destroying the Bar-Lev line--the line which was established by fear on behalf of distrust.

Earlier, Ben Gurion had said that it was possible to defeat the Arabs 100 times, but if they defeat us once Israel would be lost forever.

Therefore, we spent much time talking about security, their security as well as our security and the security of the Palestinians in the West Bank. We talked about the future of Palestine and how the Palestinians would govern themselves. I reasserted Egypt's viewpoint.

Question: Egypt has declared that there has been no change conducive to reconvening either the political or the military committee. However, the discussions must have revolved around the course of peace and the Israeli defense minister must have presented his government's views. Can this be considered as a suspension, a slowing down or a freezing of the situation, with the knowledge and reluctance of all parties?

Answer: As I have said, the peace process will not stop. Its pace may not be the same at all times but it must continue. We must hear all the views, discuss them and review them. We must continue doing so. This happens in all kinds of negotiations after and during wars. Furthermore, the problem is very complicated and the psychological factors have added thorny and burning dimensions to it.

'Ezer Weizman is expected to come here again. Were it not for my trip to the oases of Al-Wadi al-Jadid, he would have come next week. However, I expect him to come the week after next. The dialog must continue because we ourselves are parties to the problem and because the matter primarily concerns us. It also concerns the United States because it is a vital and necessary partner, a full partner. Therefore, I will inform President Carter of everything that takes place between us.

President Carter sent me a personal letter in his own handwriting via our UN ambassador, Ashraf Ghurbal. I have already answered it. This is the second personal letter I have received from President Carter. The first was before my initiative, and the envelope was typewritten but the letter was in his handwriting.

President Carter adopted a fair and brave stance. He is a man of principles and moral values. He announced his position with complete clarity and honesty. I see Carter and Vance as unconventional politicians and, above all, as two of the people most committed to principles and moral values. If this is the position of the strongest state in the world, then I must cherish its friendship, because it has on every occasion confirmed its sincerity and loyalty to peace. When we find common grounds between ourselves and Israel, the two committees will resume their work. Our meeting with the Israeli defense minister, however, confirmed to us that there is a gap between our views and theirs, and gaps must be bridged for the sake of mutual peace. This does not drive me to despair or pessimism. We have accomplished a lot and will accomplish more, on one necessary condition: We must be objective and rational and we must not get carried away by emotionalism, improvisation and unjustified dramatic convulsions. I will never tire of repeating the meaning of this course that we have followed in our political life. We must speak the language of our time. This is the language of reason and logic. Logic tells us that we must move forward, that peace is difficult but not impossible and that outbidding is easy but will never achieve peace.

Question: It has been said that Chairman al-Qadhdhafi, after attacking his colleagues in the rejection front, suggested that the defense ministers of Egypt and Libya meet in As-Sallum, and so on. How can this be reconciled with his previous utterances about the initiative and about the front for steadfastness and confrontation, which was later called the front of inaction and decay?

Answer: Al-Qadhdhafi must have wanted to amuse us.

AS-SADAT SENDS MESSAGE TO PRIME MINISTER CALLAGHAN

NC0218402 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1747 GMT 2 Apr 78 NC

[Text] Cairo, 2 April--President Muhammad Anwar as-Sadat has sent a message to British Prime Minister James Callaghan in response to a message the president received regarding the contacts Britain has recently held in relation to developments in the Middle East, the attitude of the European Common Market member states and relations between the two countries. British Ambassador to Egypt Willie Morris received As-Sadat's message to Callaghan during his meeting today with Minister of Foreign Affairs Muhammad Ibrahim Kamil.

In addition, Foreign Minister Kamil and the Indian ambassador to Egypt today discussed the relations between Egypt and India, the current situation in the Middle East and the forthcoming meetings of the nonalined states and the cooperation between the two countries in this respect.

KING HUSAYN RECEIVES MESSAGE FROM KING KHALID

JN0110100Y Amman AL-AKHBAR in Arabic 1 Apr 78 p 1 JN

[Text] AL-AKHBAR has learned that His Majesty King Khalid, king of Saudi Arabia, has sent a message to His Majesty King Husayn dealing with the current Arab situation. The message was conveyed to his majesty on Thursday by the Saudi ambassador in Amman.

PRIME MINISTER BADRAN TO VISIT LIBYA 4 APRIL

JN0214400Y Amman JNA in Arabic 1420 GMT 2 Apr 78 JN

[Text] Amman, 2 April--Mudar Badran, prime minister and minister of foreign affairs, will pay an official visit to the Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah next Tuesday at the invitation of 'Abd al-'Ati al-'Ubaydi, chairman of the General People's Committee. During his 3-day visit Badran will hold talks with Al-'Ubaydi and senior Libyan officials on the fraternal relations between the two countries and the current Arab situation. The prime minister will be accompanied by the minister of state for foreign affairs and the prime minister's press adviser.

AD-DUSTUR Comments

JN0308100Y Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 0515 GMT 3 Apr 78 JN

[From the press review]

[Text] The newspaper AD-DUSTUR speaks in its editorial today on the visit which Prime Minister Mudar Badran will pay to the Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah tomorrow and the significance of this visit in this phase the Arab nation is passing through in terms of consolidating Jordan's role and its sincere efforts to rally the Arab ranks and to utilize Arab resources to cope with the constant aggression being unleashed against the Arab nation.

AD-DUSTUR says: Through its wise, courageous leadership, Jordan has proved that it has always been bigger than the factors of dismemberment and more committed to the pan-Arab responsibility. It has always presented the formula of joint Arab action based on dialog.

AD-DUSTUR asks: Why not use dialog as the framework of action, whether the substance of action prompts one to agree or disagree? Why should we resolve differences by engaging in further differences or estrangement when our fate is to be linked vis-a-vis the unity of our future and national interests?

AD-DUSTUR adds: We praise Tripoli's initiative in restoring diplomatic relations between the two countries and in its invitation to the prime minister to visit the Libyan capital. We hope that the beginning will be commensurate with the pan-Arab and domestic responsibilities of the two countries and with the current phase.

In conclusion AD-DUSTUR says: We record and hope that the beginning will be good and that the end will be in the interest of the two countries and in the interest of the Arab nation. While it is the nature of the Jordanian action on the pan-Arab level to embark on silent, persistent action and to draw away from emotionalism, the leaders of the fraternal Jamahiriyah certainly do not expect from Jordan more than its difficult, courageous pan-Arab activity.

PRIME MINISTER MEETS WITH AL-HUSS, BUTRUS, AL-KHATIB

NC311316Y Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 31 Mar 78 NC

[Text] The attention of the official circles has centered on the latest developments in the south in light of the results of the contacts held at various political levels in Lebanon and at the diplomatic Arab and international levels. These contacts are held for the purpose of implementing the UN Security Council resolution providing for the withdrawal of the Israeli forces from the south and the deployment of UN forces in their place, and for helping the Lebanese authorities in restoring legitimacy and sovereignty throughout Lebanon.

In this context President Ilyas Sarkis held a working session at 1000 today with Prime Minister Dr Salim al-Huss and Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign and Expatriate Affairs and Defense Fu'ad Butrus. The meeting dealt with current affairs. At noon Arab deterrent forces commander Lt Col Sami al-Khatib joined the meeting.

On leaving the palace, Lt Col Sami al-Khatib had the following to say to reporters: About his visit to Damascus, he said such visits are always for the purpose of discussing everything related to the Arab deterrent forces and the present situation. On the meeting at the palace, he said: We discussed the role of the deterrent forces at the present stage and in the future, because the deterrent forces will have a role to play until the consolidation of the cease-fire and the deployment of the UN forces in the south. We also discussed what the real role of the deterrent forces is in this context. On the deployment of the deterrent forces after the renewal of the mandate, he said: This depends on the local situation and has nothing to do with the renewal. Asked if he expects that the presence of the deterrent forces will be extended to the south after the deployment of the UN forces and the consolidation of the cease-fire, he said: The deterrent forces want to make room for the Lebanese Army and the Internal Security Forces to play their natural part.

At 1245 Prime Minister al-Huss and Minister Butrus left the presidential palace. The prime minister said: During the meeting we reviewed the efforts made to insure the implementation of the Security Council resolution at all levels. Answering a question on the results of the current contacts, he said they are encouraging.

Minister Butrus was asked about the obstacles hindering the implementation of the UN Security Council resolution. He replied that, God willing, all problems will be ironed out and that it is natural that the implementation of the Security Council resolution would encounter some problems, particularly in view of the nature of the issues and situation in question. He added: In my opinion, as of now, I say that, God willing, there will be no insurmountable problems.

PRIME MINISTER AL-HUSS MEETS WITH PLO OFFICIALS

Meets With 'Arafat

NC312020Y Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 2000 GMT 31 Mar 78 NC

[Text] Prime Minister Dr Salim al-Huss met with PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat this evening. After the meeting Prime Minister Salim al-Huss made the following statement: We exchanged views on the best and quickest means to insure the withdrawal of the Israeli forces and the restoration of Lebanese sovereignty in the south.

Agreement has been reached on a number of measures, which, we hope, will soon have a noticeable and positive effect on conditions in the south. Yasir 'Arafat reassured me about the eagerness of the resistance to cooperate with the Lebanese authorities to bring about the Israeli withdrawal as soon as possible. This is the aim which we all seek.

Meets Hani al-Hasan

NC021510Y Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 2 Apr 78 NC

[Text] Prime Minister Dr Salim al-Huss met with the PLO chairman's political adviser, Hani al-Hasan, this morning. They reviewed the developments in the situation in the south, particularly matters connected with speeding up the implementation of the UN Security Council resolution.

Hani al-Hasan said after the meeting that the Palestinian side is determined not to give Israel any excuse for not withdrawing. Undoubtedly Prime Minister al-Huss has the confidence of everybody, both Lebanese and Palestinian. We are determined to afford him all the facilities he requires, having confidence in his understanding of matters and his patriotic stand.

KAMIL AL-AS'AD RETURNS TO BEIRUT FROM DAMASCUS

NC311850Y Voice of Lebanon [Clandestine] in Arabic to Lebanon 1715 GMT 31 Mar 78 NC

[Text] Kamil al-As'ad, speaker of the Chamber of Deputies, returned to Beirut from Damascus this evening after a private visit, during which he contacted senior Syrian officials on the situation in Lebanon and the recent developments in the area. Kamil al-As'ad will hold a press conference tomorrow morning at which he will discuss the results of his contacts regarding the convening of a chamber session to discuss information gathered on the Palestinian issue.

Holds Press Conference

NC011648Y Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1600 GMT 1 Apr 78 NC

[Text] Speaker of the Chamber of Deputies Kamil al-As'ad held a press conference this morning. He discussed holding a parliamentary session to discuss the various fateful issues, foremost of which is the Palestinian armed presence. He also spoke about implementation of the UN Security Council's resolution and the need to unify the internal position.

Speaker al-As'ad said: The national duty behooves us at this critical stage to confront frankly all our chronic problems. However, the issue will take some time because it is necessary to hold consultations and carry out contacts to create a suitable atmosphere enabling the parliamentary meeting to adopt a frank and unified position.

CHAMBER SPEAKER SENDS CABLE TO WALDHEIM

NC021256Y Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 2 Apr 78 NC

[Text] Kamil al-As'ad, speaker of the Chamber of Deputies, sent the following cable to UN Secretary General Dr Kurt Waldheim today:

Proceeding from our meeting in Beirut and our appreciation of your interest in the causes of peoples and their right to self-determination within the framework of justice and peace, and on the basis of your persistent efforts to achieve the ideals that constitute the fundamental principles of the United Nations, I express to you today feelings of anxiety and uneasiness which the Lebanese people are suffering as a result of the dangers threatening the country because of the existing tragedy in the south.

Paragraph 3 of UN Security Council Resolution 425 issued on 19 March 1978, related to the dispatch of UN emergency forces to southern Lebanon, provides that the task of these forces is to restore international security and peace and to help the state of Lebanon in establishing its actual authority in that area. When adopting the resolution, the members of the United Nations undoubtedly realized, just as we realized, the tragic realities southern Lebanon is experiencing. They were also aware of the difficulties facing the implementation of this resolution. Therefore, the UN forces, besides their size and activities, must also be given the task of being deterrent forces. Otherwise, and in the event these forces are denied the task of deterrence, they will be incapable of carrying out the task assigned to them, whatever their size and equipment. This will inevitably render Resolution 425 ineffective, despite the noble motives of the UN Security Council members.

On the basis of this fact and the possibilities that might arise as a result of the present situation in the south, and in view of the fact that the size and equipment of the UN forces is determined by the UN executive authority, the implementation of the resolution inevitably requires a larger number of forces than has so far been decided--a force whose capability and size should be commensurate with the two tasks assigned to them by the Security Council.

Finally, we hope that you will respond by taking suitable measures with regard to the current situation in southern Lebanon. I express to you my sincerest appreciation and affection.

[Signed] Kamil al-As'ad, speaker of the Chamber of Deputies.

SHAM'UN MAKES STATEMENTS ON MEETINGS, CURRENT SITUATION

NC0119102Y Voice of Lebanon [Clandestine] in Arabic to Lebanon 1715 GMT 1 Apr 78 NC

[Text] Upon leaving B'abda palace a short time ago, former President Camille Sham'un said that the contacts between the Lebanese authorities and the Palestinian resistance have had no result so far.

Sham'un visited the republican palace in B'abda this evening and met with President Ilyas Sarkis. They reviewed the general situation in the country and developments along the border area. Foreign Minister Fu'ad Butrus attended the meeting. Sham'un added that the discussions dealt with current affairs, particularly the Israeli presence on the border and the Palestinian presence in the area between Sidon and the border area as well as in other places in the south. He said that he had raised the subject of the flow of materiel into Lebanon. Replying to a question, Sham'un said that the matter continues to be connected with the arrival of the UN forces. He added that this might take several weeks because the UN departments were not prepared for the resolution to dispatch UN forces to the south.

It has been learned that Sham'un had asked that the Lebanese Security Forces assume full authority, provided the government furnishes them with the necessary equipment. He had also proposed to the president that the Lebanese Army assume its role and that the army personnel be increased.

Sham'un concluded by pointing out that the situation resulting from the Israeli presence is being dealt with on the Arab and international levels.

Comments on Palestinians

NC021351Y Voice of Lebanon [Clandestine] in Arabic to Lebanon 1215 GMT 2 Apr 78 NC

[Excerpt] The situation in southern Lebanon was the subject of a long discussion this morning between former President Camille Sham'un and Deputy Kazim al-Khalil at the latter's home in Al-Hazmiyah. Sham'un briefed Al-Khalil on the results of his talks with President Ilyas Sarkis yesterday. Al-Khalil briefed him on the news from the south, particularly the border area.

After the meeting Sham'un said: It has been a normal visit. I make such visits from time to time to hear the news about the south. It appears that the situation there has not changed. There are Palestinians inside and outside Tyre. There is a big concentration of Palestinians on the northern side of the Litani River. I estimate their number at no less than 15,000. In addition, there are a number of aliens who have entered the south on the pretext of aiding the Palestinians. I estimate their number at 2,500. They have equipment and weapons.

MINISTER BUTRUS MEETS WITH AMBASSADOR PARKER

NC011215Y Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 1 Apr 78 NC

[Text] Foreign Minister Fu'ad Butrus met with U.S. Ambassador Richard Parker at 1100 today. This is the second meeting between them this week. The situation in the south, implementation of the Security Council's resolution, stationing of the UN peace-keeping force and speeding up the Israeli withdrawal from Lebanon were the main topics which the foreign minister discussed with the American ambassador.

Parker Comments

NC011916Y Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1730 GMT 1 Apr 78 NC

[Excerpt] After today's meeting with Foreign Minister Fu'ad Butrus, the American ambassador said: We discussed the developments in the area, details related to implementation of the UN Security Council resolution, and the entry of the UN forces into the south.

Asked about the difficulties facing the UN interim forces to be stationed in the south, the ambassador said: There are only routine administrative difficulties facing the entry of the security forces into the south. Asked if these difficulties have been surmounted, he said: We are working toward this end.

In response to a question on a timetable for the Israeli withdrawal from the south, Ambassador Parker said: No timetable has yet been announced. The ambassador was then asked: Are you still optimistic that the withdrawal will take place during April? He answered: I am still optimistic.

'POPULAR CONFERENCE' STATEMENT ON SOUTH REPORTED

JN311545Y Baghdad INA in Arabic 1524 GMT 31 Mar 78 JN

[Text] Beirut, 31 March--The popular conference on southern Lebanon has called for the adoption of all forms of struggle to expel the Zionist enemy from southern Lebanon and to liberate the territory he has occupied. The conference, which includes the representatives of all the popular nationalist organizations in southern Lebanon, has emphasized the importance of unity and solidarity.

In a statement issued today, the conference warned all agents and traitors who cooperate with the enemy that they will be tried for high treason. The conference affirmed that the southerners who have been expelled from their land will resort to every means to liberate their land. They categorically reject any political or military dealings with the enemy. The statement calls on the Lebanese Government to clearly define its position on the agent army officer Maj Sa'd Haddad and his group, who are openly cooperating with the occupation forces. They must be tried for high treason, the statement adds.

SUPPORT FOR SYRIA, DETERRENT FORCES CALLED FOR

JN022023Y Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1915 GMT 2 Apr 78 JN

[Text] The central command of the progressive vanguard movement [munazzamat at-tala'i' at-taqaddumiyah] in Beirut has called on the Arabs to support and back Arab Syria, the bastion of steadfastness, which is defending the rights and aspirations of the Arab nation. In a meeting held today to discuss the southern Lebanon situation, the organization demanded that the Zionist attitude as well as the Zionist delay in withdrawing from southern Lebanon be exposed. The organization also called for stationing the deterrent forces in all parts and districts of Lebanon because the Lebanese masses have confidence in these forces.

NATIONALISTS MEET WITH AN-NABATIYAH DEPUTY

JN029129Y Baghdad INA in Arabic 1830 GMT 2 Apr 78 JN

[Text] Beirut, 2 April--A delegation of the Lebanese Nationalist Movement met this evening with 'Abd al-Latif az-Zayn, An-Nabatiyah deputy in the Lebanese Chamber of Deputies, within the framework of the contacts being carried out by the central political council of the nationalist forces and parties with nationalist personalities and groupings.

A source at the Nationalist Movement said that the delegation, which was made up of Musa Shu'ayb, Karim Muruwwah, and Mustafa 'Izz ad-Din, had explained the movement's views concerning the current situation, pointing out the dangers involved in the continuation of the Zionist occupation and the Nationalist Movement's plan to face it. The political situation as well as the evacuees and security issues in the region of An-Nabatiyah were also discussed. It was agreed to face all these matters with a unified nationalist stand so as to block the Zionist efforts aimed at disrupting the internal situation and entrenching the occupation.

COMMUNIST PARTY LEADER ENDS VISIT TO MOSCOW

JN030842Y Baghdad INA in Arabic 0832 GMT 3 Apr 78 JN

[Text] Moscow, 3 April--Nicola Shawi, secretary general of the Lebanese Communist Party, this morning left Moscow at the end of a visit of several days to the Soviet Union at the head of a delegation from the party.

During his visit to Moscow, Shawi had talks with CPSU officials on bilateral relations between the two parties and the situation in the Arab area in the aftermath of the Zionist aggression against southern Lebanon.

U.S. MILITARY TEAM ARRIVES TO DISCUSS AID

NC0218337 Voice of Lebanon [Clandestine] in Arabic to Lebanon 1715 GMT 2 Apr 78 NC

[Excerpts] A U.S. military team consisting of five officers arrived in Beirut this afternoon. They will hold consultations with Lebanese officials on the implementation of the program of military aid for the Lebanese Army. The U.S. team is expected to meet with Defense Minister Fu'ad Butrus, Army Commander Staff Brig Gen Victor Khuri and other Lebanese officials to discuss Lebanon's needs for rebuilding its armed forces.

ARMY COMMANDER APPOINTS COORDINATOR WITH UN FORCES

NC0116477 Voice of Lebanon [Clandestine] in Arabic to Lebanon 1515 GMT 1 Apr 78 NC

[Text] In order to facilitate the implementation of the UN emergency forces' task in the south, the army command considers it necessary to establish coordination between it and those who are responsible for these forces. The army commander has therefore decided to appoint Air Lt Col Fawzi Abu Farhat for this purpose.

ARMY UNIT TRAINS ON MILAN ANTITANK MISSILE

NC0107247 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0530 GMT 1 Apr 78 NC

[Excerpts] Lebanese Army units are continuing their training exercises without letup. Within this context an army unit under the command of Capt Karim Karam yesterday carried out firing exercises with Milan missiles at (Al-Mughaytah) training grounds in Dahr al-Baydar. It is recalled that the Milan is a French-German missile that can destroy armor up to a distance of 2,000 meters. A missiles school has recently been set up in Kafr Shima. It will graduate technicians, instructors and marksmen.

ALIENS, WEAPONS, AMMUNITION SEEN TRANSPORTED

NC0113377 Voice of Lebanon [Clandestine] in Arabic to Lebanon 1215 GMT 1 Apr 78 NC

[Text] At 2225 yesterday, 15 military transports, each carrying 3 Jeeps, traveled on the Al-Masna'-Shtawrah road. Three transports carrying various types of weapons and ammunition and three others carrying aliens were seen traveling on the Mashgarah-Al-Biqa' Al-Gharbi road in the direction of 'Ayn Hirshah.

Reports from the south today say that Iraqi forces have positioned their artillery in some villages in the Az-Zahrani area, Al-Hajjah, Al-Mi'mariyah, Rumin, (Araki) and Izzah, up to the Jba' crossroads. Other reports from the south say that Israeli military boats have appeared in the waters off Tyre and Sidon, particularly in the waters off 'Adlun, for the first time since the Israeli forces invaded southern Lebanon. The reports give no explanation for the Israeli military boats' reappearance in the area.

IRAQIS REPORTEDLY ESTABLISH ROCKET BASES

NC311308Y Voice of Lebanon [Clandestine] in Arabic to Lebanon 1215 GMT 31 Mar 78 NC

[Text] Persons arriving from An-Nabatiyah today said that Iraqi units have set up rocket bases in the town of Kafr Tibnit as well as in some villages close to An-Nabatiyah.

PALESTINIANS CLASH WITH ARMED NASIRITES

NC311845Y Voice of Lebanon [Clandestine] in Arabic 1715 GMT 31 Mar 78 NC

[Text] The Voice of Lebanon correspondent reported this evening that gunmen belonging to the Palestinian rejectionist fronts have clashed with armed groups of Al-Murabitun [military wing of the Independent Nasirite Movement] in the Coca Cola area. Shots were fired resulting in a number of casualties on both sides. The roads leading to the scene of the incident were closed. Firing ceased only after Al-Fatah forces intervened and settled the dispute between the rejectionists and the Al-Murabitun.

VOICE OF LEBANON REPORTS CALM IN SOUTH, 2 APRIL

NC021325Y Voice of Lebanon [Clandestine] in Arabic to Lebanon 1215 GMT 2 Apr 78 NC

[Excerpt] Activity is continuing in the town of Tyre. The UN forces are clearing the port and coastline areas of any unexploded mines. Movement is almost normal in the town, although some citizens have complained about delays in some electrical repairs. The local administration in the southern provice is paying attention to this matter and has said that the initial necessary repairs are being made in the area.

Reports from the Hasbayya area indicate that the situation is becoming gradually calm, particularly since the UN Swedish force has completed its deployment in some parts of the area.

Persons arriving from the south today said that Israeli planes are still seen flying over the area from time to time but that their number has decreased.

INA REPORTS ARTILLERY EXCHANGES IN SOUTH, 3 APRIL

JN030855Y Baghdad INA in Arabic 0840 GMT 3 Apr 78 JN

[Text] Baghdad, 3 April--Artillery fire was exchanged last night between the positions of the joint forces in An-Nabatiyah and Arnun and the Zionist-rightwing forces taking up positions in the Al-Qula'yah border town.

The INA correspondent in southern Lebanon reports that there were also other exchanges of fire on the Tyre-Al-Bazuriyah axis where the occupation forces are reinforcing their positions, fortifying their frontal positions overlooking Tyre city, preventing evacuees from returning home and demolishing the homes of those who have stayed to force them to evacuate.

AL-ASAD ADDRESSES CABINET SESSION UNDER AL-HALABI

JN012045Y Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1915 GMT 1 Apr 78 JN

[Text] Damascus--Prime Minister Muhammad 'Ali al-Halabi and the new members of the cabinet took the constitutional oath before President Hafiz al-Asad at 1345 today.

At 1400 today, President Hafiz al-Asad presided over the first meeting of the cabinet. His Excellency President Hafiz al-Asad made an address in the cabinet meeting in which he spoke about the tasks of the new cabinet. He explained in this connection that there are new programs, not new policies, because our policy is clear, principled and constant.

His Excellency President al-Asad reaffirmed what he had said when the outgoing cabinet assumed power; namely, his emphasis on the responsibility of the minister; the need for the ministers to exercise their powers in full; and the need to tackle the phenomena of negligence, nonperformance of duty, indifference and lack of feeling of responsibility in the government departments and establishments.

His Excellency President al-Asad said that there will be no protection for those who are indifferent, those who fail to do their duty, or those who overlook their dupites. He said: All those in charge must shoulder their responsibilities and exercise their powers in full. We must all rectify every mistake or wrongdoing, particularly since every minister and official has the power to exercise his powers and purviews. When the legal powers are insufficient, we must work to develop laws and regulations to suit our needs, not to be a burden on us.

His Excellency President al-Asad called on the superiors to take care of those working under them and to create a better atmosphere for production. He also called for facilitating the interests of the citizens and opening the doors for them to meet with officials regarding their business without any intercession by others. He also called on government employees not to act in a superior manner with the citizens.

His Excellency President as-Asad emphasized the need to eliminate negligence,laziness, procrastination, and redtape in discharging the business and affairs of the citizens. He also called for developing the machinery of work in the ministries and in the state establishments and departments. He also emphasized the need to draw up general principles governing dealings between government officials and the people in such a way as to achieve fairness in these dealings.

His Excellency the president then spoke about the need to make better use of our manpower and material resources and capabilities so as to guarantee the achievement of the best benefits from these resources and capabilities. These resources and capabilities are good, but they need better utilization, the president said. He said this requires the collaboration of the efforts of everyone and that each job should complement the other.

His excellency the president also explained the current Arab situation and spoke about the Syrian Arab Republic's principled, constant policy, affirming that this policy of ours does not change from one cabinet to another or from one presidential term to another. He said: Regardless of the difficulties and crises, we do not proceed in tackling our issues from the motive of reacting to others or under the weight of the pressure of difficulties and crises. We proceed from our free will and conscientious comprehension of our domestic and pan-Arab interests and our determination to achieve our goals. Furthermore, we only tackle our regional issues in light of the pan-Arab interest of our Arab nation.

In this connection, the president affirmed determination to keep our national will free and to consolidate this will as well as to strengthen our national unity, which constitutes our solid base and effective weapon in the confrontation of challenges. He emphasized that a strong Syria is good for itself and for our Arab nation.

After extending his thanks to the outgoing cabinet for its efforts and thanking the ministers for their efforts, he wished the new cabinet success in shouldering its responsibilities and called for doubling the efforts to serve our country and nation and to achieve our domestic and pan-Arab goals.

In his own name and on behalf of his colleagues, Prime Minister Muhammad 'Ali al-Halabi thanked His Excellency President Hafiz al-Asad for the confidence he placed in them. He also thanked the president for his guiding address and said: The government will use this guiding address and the president's speech to the People's Assembly as a working program. The prime minister said that together with his colleagues, they will make big efforts to implement the instructions of His Excellency President Hafiz al-Asad.

AL-ASAD CABLES CONGRATULATIONS TO HUNGARIAN PRESIDENT

JN030942Y Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0915 GMT 3 Apr 78 JN

[Text] Damascus--On the occasion of the national day of the Hungarian People's Republic, His Excellency President Hafiz al-Asad has sent a cable to President Pal Losonczi expressing, on behalf of the Syrian Arab people and in his own name, warmest congratulations and best wishes for the health and happiness of President Losonczi and progress and prosperity to the friendly Hungarian people.

RIYAD ARRIVES IN DAMASCUS FOR ARAB-EUROPEAN MEETING

JN030935Y Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0915 GMT 3 Apr 78 JN

[Text] Damascus--Meetings of the six-state ministerial Arab committee comprising finance and economy ministers will begin in Damascus today to discuss the Arab-European dialog.

Arab League Secretary General Mahmud Riyad arrived in Damascus yesterday to attend these meetings. He was accompanied by Assistant Arab League Secretary General for Economic Affairs Dr 'Abd al-Muhsin Zalzalah and an Arab League delegation.

Riyad made a statement greeting His Excellency President Hafiz al-Asad. He said that the aim of his visit to Damascus is to attend the meetings of the committee which will discuss the questions agreed upon so far concerning the Arab-European dialog.

AUSTRIAN SOCIALIST PARTY YOUTH DELEGATION ENDS VISIT

JN011447Y Damascus SANA in Arabic 1335 GMT 1 Apr 78 JN

[Excerpt] Damascus, 1 April--The youth delegation of the Austrian Socialist Party left Damascus today after a 1-week visit to Syria. The delegation is headed by (Ulbricht Concesni), chairman of the National Council of the Austrian Socialist Youth Union, member of the Austrian Socialist Party leadership and head of the Information and Mass Organization Department in the party. The delegation was seen off at the airport by the members of the Revolutionary Youth Command and a number of youths.

Issues Joint Statement

JN011448Y Damascus SANA in Arabic 1340 GMT 1 Apr 78 JN

[Excerpt] Damascus, 1 April--The Austrian Socialist Youth Union and the Revolution Youth Union in Syria have called for the immediate withdrawal of the Zionist forces of aggression from southern Lebanon. They have also condemned the Zionist enemy's continued occupation of the occupied Arab territories and his denial of the rights of the Palestinian Arab people.

In a joint statement issued today at the end of a 1-week visit to Syria by a delegation of the Austrian Socialist Youth Union, the two sides affirmed the need for the withdrawal of the Zionist forces from the occupied territories and the restoration of the firm national rights of the Palestinian Arab people, including their right to self-determination and the establishment of their independent national state.

The two sides affirmed their belief that the PLO is the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian Arab people. They also expressed their conviction that As-Sadat's treacherous visit to occupied Jerusalem has led to the disruption of the unity of Arab ranks and delayed the process of peace in the region.

In their statement the two sides condemned the policy of racial discrimination in Africa and asserted their full support for the struggle of peoples for their freedom and independence. They supported the efforts being exerted for the disarmament of strategic weapons in the world and the achievement of world peace. They also stressed the need to liquidate all hotbeds of tension in the world on the basis of peoples' rights to determine their destiny by themselves, and their right to attain independence, freedom and social progress.

On the other hand, a cooperation agreement for 1978-79 was signed today between the youth of the two countries, aimed at consolidating and promoting relations between them. It also stipulates the exchange of the documents and publications issued by the two organizations, the exchange of delegations and scholarships and the setting of friendship weeks in both countries.

ISRAELI VIOLATION OF DISENGAGEMENT AGREEMENT PROTESTED

JN021645Y Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1615 GMT 2 Apr 78 JN

[Text] Syria today lodged an urgent complaint with the command of the UN Disengagement Observation Force [UNDOF] in which it strongly protested Israel's blatant violation of the disengagement agreement.

Israeli elements had infiltrated the disengagement zone [mintaqat al-fasl] and planted booby-trap mines [al-gham mufakhkhakhah] and high-explosive materials in a densely populated area near the Damascus-Dar'a highway.

When on 1 April 1978 a technical team detected those mines and began to remove them, the mines exploded causing the martyrdom of a number of military technicians and civilian residents. They are: Staff Col Salih ash-Shatir, Staff Col Nadim Raslan, Lt Col Nadim Muhammad, Capt Rashid Jabri, 1st Lt 'Isa Ibrahim, Warrant Officer Ahmad Darwish, Sgt Maj Muhammad Taysir Hallaq, Sgt Maj Yusuf as-Suwaydani and Cpl Muhammad Khalaf.

The civilian martyrs are: 'Aodallah Isyas, Yusuf Abu Hassun and 'Ali 'Alya.

The Syrian Arab Republic has informed the UNDOF command that it considers this criminal incident of sabotage to be a major provocation and a blatant and serious violation of the disengagement agreements. The Syrian Arab Republic has also informed the UNDOF command that the government of the Zionist enemy assumes responsibility for all the consequences.

DAMASCUS RADIO: AS-SADAT REGIME HAS JOINED ENEMY CAMP

JN0121144Y Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1930 GMT 1 Apr 78 JN

[Unattributed commentary]

[Excerpts] Reports from Washington, Tel Aviv and even Cairo emphasize that the parties to the tripartite anti-Arab plot are going ahead in implementing this plot and in achieving a partial settlement between the As-Sadat regime and the racist Zionist regime. This settlement is a main link in the conspiracy. Through the statements of U.S. President Jimmy Carter, his Secretary of State Cyrus Vance, Israel's Prime Minister Begin and President as-Sadat, the parties to this plot have affirmed their intention to impose surrender on the Arabs. Naturally, they have not forgotten to call the plot the peace process. The stands of the U.S. and Israeli Governments are commensurate with their previous stands and with their well-known strategy in the Middle East.

After Begin's statement in the Knesset in which he absolutely rejected any talk about withdrawal from the occupied Arab territories, about the rights of the Palestinians to determine their own destiny or about the Palestinian state, and also after the repeated Carter and Vance assertions that the United States rejects the idea of putting pressure on Israel to convince it to change its position, which has been the most intransigent Israeli stand so far, the insistence of the As-Sadat regime on continuing the line of surrender to the enemy destroys any pretext that As-Sadat's policy is just another form of attempts to liberate the occupied Arab territories and to restore the rights of the Arab people of Palestine. The As-Sadat regime is going ahead on its path of surrender with full awareness and absolute knowledge, after having transformed itself into a guardian of U.S. interests in the Middle East and Africa. In other words, it has transformed itself into a partner and coworker with Israel in carrying out this task.

He who makes himself a guardian of U.S. interests stands in the same trench with Israel and places himself against the Arab nation, which is suffering from the plots, oppression and tyranny of U.S. imperialism and its ally, the racist-Zionist, against the peace, security and wealth of the Arab nation. He who stands beside Israel, the arrogant aggressor against the Arab territories and the Palestinian people, cannot find a place among the ranks of the Arab forces and masses, which hold fast to the Arab territories and the rights of the Palestinian people. These masses reject surrender and cherish the honor and dignity of the Arab nation. Any call for reconciliation with the As-Sadat regime, no matter what the pretext, cannot but eventually serve the imperialist-Zionist conspiracy and give the parties to the conspiracy a new opportunity to obscure the Arab masses and to continue on the path of imposing surrender on the Arabs. Arab solidarity cannot be built on the silence toward As-Sadat's plots, his following the path of surrender and his standing at the side of Israel under the U.S. banner.

Syria extends its sincere hand to all the sincere Arab forces which reject surrender and which hold fast to the Rabat summit conference resolutions, which aim at liberating the occupied Arab territories and regaining the rights of the Arab people of Palestine. Syria's hand will not be extended to those who have stabbed the dignity and the patriotism of the nation and moved from the Arab camp to that of the enemy.

AL-BA'TH SAYS SYRIA IS PRESSURED BY ARABS, ISRAEL

JN030624Y Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0430 GMT 3 Apr 78 JN

[From the press review]

[Text] In the column "With Events," and under the headline "Going to War Is a Syrian Decision," AL-BA'TH today says: It has become obvious to everyone that Syria is now the main target of those who fell into the trap of the imperialist-Zionist plot and who are trying to eliminate the remaining victories scored by the Arab fighter in the October war and consequently to liquidate the Palestinian issue step by step. These people believe the creation of continuous difficulties for Syria is one of the urgent requirements. They imagine this will discourage Syria from adopting a decisive stand concerning pan-Arab issues.

The paper adds: The truth is Syria has been exposed to various pressures at varying times, particularly whenever an issue such as the Lebanese crisis cropped up. Having failed to accomplish anything by creating difficulties for Syria in one way or another, the initiators of such pressure began developing their hostile and immoral methods until they began acting just like Israel.

For a period of more than 10 days now a person could not distinguish between the radios in Cairo, Baghdad and Israel. We say this with profound sorrow. The three radios have been calling upon Syria to go to war against Israel in southern Lebanon. Much has been said. Cairo provokes and instigates while Baghdad follows suit. Israel utters words aimed at pushing Syria into a trap or, to be more exact, Israel wants Syria to go to war at Israel's decision. As-Sadat's regime provokes and instigates while the great Egyptian Army is divested of its ability to fight and when all indications are that what happened in southern Lebanon is not dissociated from the As-Sadat regime.

As for Iraq, the Palestinian brothers and others said Iraq should have at least participated with Syria in confronting the grand conspiracy against the future of the Arab nation and not against this or that country as some would imagine. Iraq should have done so instead of launching campaigns of instigation and casting of doubts. Despite all of this Syria stood fast and foiled the plot. After Israel and those who are connected with its scheme failed, they resorted to a new plan aimed of harming Syria's pan-Arab reputation under the flimsy pretext that Syria is preventing aid from reaching the resistance. They said this at a time when Syria had placed all its resources in support of the Palestinian revolution and Lebanon and had opened its borders to facilitate the delivery of aid to the resistance. The Palestinian revolution personally denied these allegations in an official statement. Fatah Central Committee member Abu Mahir said at the conference of support for Palestine that those who really reject capitulation should place all their resources at Syria's disposal in confronting Israel, the plot, and those who hatched the plot. All that has been said on this issue is at best against the issue of Arab struggle.

Concluding its commentary, AL-BA'TH says: Let us ask the Arab brothers: Have seven years not been long enough to understand Syria and its pan-Arab intentions? Syria under the leadership of President al-Asad will continue its efforts regardless of the difficulties placed in its path to deflect it from its pan-Arab course. It will do what it considers beneficial to itself and the nation. Syria, which has passed through many ordeals, understands it will be exposed to pressure internally and externally because of its stands. Syria will not change its stands, irrespective of conditions and difficulties. Syria is convinced that facts will remain facts and must triumph. The renegades and those who cast doubt must know that Syria will remain faithful to the Arab masses and that Syria is the one that will set the time and date of war and will not permit anyone else to do so.

ALGERIA

PRESIDENT BOUMEDIENE RECEIVES NUMAYRI ENVOY

LD021954Y Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic 1800 GMT 2 Apr 78 LD

[Summary] President Boumediene this afternoon received Mr 'Izz ad-Din Hamid, the Sudanese minister of state for cabinet affairs and Numayri's personal envoy. The meeting was attended by Foreign Minister Bouteflika and by the Sudanese ambassador. "The development of the situation in Africa, and in particular in the Horn of Africa, was discussed, and the situation in the Arab east and in the Arab Maghreb was analyzed."

LIBYA

YUGOSLAV DEFENSE SECRETARY CONCLUDES VISIT

LD311510Y Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1158 GMT 31 Mar 78 LD

[Text] Tripoli--Yugoslav Federal Secretary for National Defense Ljubicic left Tripoli at 1000 today together with the delegation accompanying him at the end of a 3-day visit to the Jamahiriyah.

In a statement he made to a JANA correspondent, the Yugoslav federal secretary for national defense, said: I have visited the Jamahiriyah frequently. I can compare the progress achieved with what I have seen in the past. I am happy and pleased with the progress your country has achieved in the fields of industry, health, education and agriculture. The progress achieved in all these fields emphasizes the great development which the masses have achieved in all these domains.

The Yugoslav federal secretary for national defense said that relations between the Jamahiriyah and Yugoslavia in the military domain are progressing significantly in the interest of the two friendly countries--the Jamahiriyah and Yugoslavia. These relations are founded on firm friendship, identity of views and attitudes between the Jamahiriyah and Yugoslavia. We must work to develop and strengthen our military potentials. The talks were held in a friendly atmosphere and a sincere spirit to strive to achieve peace in this part of the world.

I really mean what I say about the progress your country has achieved. I thank you for the affection and appreciation, which together with the accompanying delegation, I have sensed from all those we met, led by Brig Abu Bakr Yunis Jabir, commander in chief of the armed forces. He said that cooperation is being developed significantly in all fields and visits are being exchanged between the Libyan Arab side and the Yugoslav side and that through these visits views are exchanged and agreements are reached for the development of relations and strengthening cooperation between our two countries.

Brig Abu Bakr Yunis, commander in chief of the armed forces, hailed Arab Libyan-Yugoslav relations, describing them as excellent. In a statement to a JANA correspondent he said that the Libyan Arab-Yugoslav meetings on various levels--where complete understanding prevails--certainly embody the strengthening of the positive cooperation between us in various fields in a positive and effective way.

MONGOLIAN DEPUTY FOREIGN MINISTER ENDS VISIT

LD012204Y Tripoli JANA in English 1826 GMT 1 Apr 78 LD

[Text] Tripoli, April 1st JANA--Mr. Jamblin Panzer, deputy for 'gn minister of the Republic of Mongolia and the accompanying delegation, left Tripoli this morning after a 3-day official visit to the Jamahiriyah. They were seen off at the airport by Mr. Ahmad al-Atrash, assistant under secretary for technical affairs and the director of the Asian Department at the Foreign Secretariat. A press release was issued following this visit, the text of which is as follows:

A delegation from the Peoples Republic of Mongolia headed by Mr. Jamblin Panzer, deputy foreign minister, paid an official visit to the Jamahiriyah during the period from 20/23 Rabi Thani 1398 A.H., corresponding to 29 March to 1 April 1978. During this period the deputy foreign minister of Mongolia and the accompanying delegation were received by Dr. 'Ali 'Abd as-Salam at-Turayki, foreign secretary of the Socialist Peoples' Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah, and they conveyed a message from Mr. Jumjaagiyn Tsedenbal, president of the Peoples Republic of Mongolia to Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, secretary general of the General Peoples Congress.

During the meeting with the foreign secretary the situation in the Arab native land, the means of development and promotion of relations and cooperation between the two countries were discussed. In this connection it was agreed to exchange ambassadors.

In a friendly atmosphere, the negotiations were conducted between the Mongolian and the Libyan Arab sides headed by Ahmad al-Atrash, assistant under secretary for technical affairs in the Foreign Secretariat. The two sides expressed their desire to develop and sustain the bilateral relations in the various fields in the interest of the two parties. The assistant under-secretary for technical affairs in the Foreign Secretariat acquainted the Mongolian delegation with the most important achievements since the September revolution in the economic, social and political fields. He also acquainted him with the role of the Jamahiriyah in the Arab and African fields and the non-aligrment movement. The Mongolian delegation acquainted the under-secretary for technical affairs and the foreign secretariat with the aspects of economic and social development in their country and the highlights of the Mongolian foreign policy. The two parties reviewed the current international situation and showed special interest in the explosive situation in the Arab native land. They expressed their confidence that true peace and security can only be realized in the Arab native land when all the Arab territories are liberated and only when the legitimiate rights of the Palestinian people, including their right to establish their national state, are observed. The two parties strongly condemned imperialism, the capitalist policies and initiatives of their allies which are only geared to the surrender of the rights of the Arab people and liquidating the Palestinian cause. The two parties confirmed that the recent Zionist aggression on south Lebanon reflects again the expansionist policy of Israel and its determination to liquidate the Palestinian resistance. They further confirmed their support of the just Palestinian struggle and the Lebanese progressive movement in their stand against this aggressive Zionist policy.

The Mongolian delegation commended the vanguard role of the Jamahiriyah in realizing the front of steadfastness and expressed Mongolia's solidarity with this front.

The two parties asserted the necessity of sustaining friendship relationships between the Jamahiriyah and the socialist countries.

Reviewing the current situation in South Africa, the two parties expressed solidarity with the peoples of Namibia, Zimbabwe and South Africa in their struggle for freedom from colonialism and imperialism as well as liquidation of racist regimes to enable these peoples to exercise self determination and independence. In this connection, the two parties condemned the racist complicity between the two racist regimes in South Africa and occupied Palestine.

The two parties asserted the need for peace and security in Asia. At the end of these talks, the Mongolian delegation expressed gratitude for the cordial reception and generous hospitality accorded to them in the Jamahiriyah and wished the friendly Libyan Arab people ever success and progress.

TRIPOLI: AS-SADAT DECEIVED ABOUT WEIZMAN'S VISIT

LD312359Y Tripoli Voice of the Arab Homeland in Arabic 1915 GMT 31 Mar 78 LD

[Unattributed commentary: "How Long Will the Deception Continue?"]

[Excerpts] Today we heard the reactions to the enemy defense minister's visit to the Arab Republic of Egypt. We have also followed the comments of the press published in Washington, London and Cairo. All of them are unanimous in the view that the enemy defense minister's visit and his meetings with President Anwar as-Sadat and his aides have not led to any worthwhile results. Indeed, some Western papers went so far as to say that the Egyptian president strongly believed that he had been deceived. But how?

The Egyptian president was under the impression that the enemy defense minister was bringing something new with him, particularly since the defense minister's visit came in the wake of three important developments. The first of these was the Zionist enemy's fifth war, this time against Lebanon and the Palestinian revolution. Then there was Menahem Begin's visit to Washington and his talks with U.S. President Carter in which news agencies say the American and Zionist leaders failed to bring the so-called peaceful solution in the Middle East any nearer. Finally, there was the Zionist enemy's cabinet meeting following Begin's return from Washington and its adoption of a unanimous decision in support of Begin's current policy. This put an end to all the lies about rifts among the leaders of the Zionist Israeli Cabinet over Begin's so-called inflexibility in regard to the so-called peaceful solution.

In spite of such results and in such an atmosphere the Egyptian president expected the Zionist minister to come with new proposals. But no sooner had the visit ended than he discovered that he had been deceived and that the Israeli minister had brought nothing worthwhile. This prompted the world press to ask what the meaning of this visit had been.

However, the question is how long the Egyptian president will continue to be deceived like a child. Or is the Egyptian president fond of the policy of deceiving and being deceived? Begin can deceive As-Sadat, who claims to be mature, but why does As-Sadat allow himself to be deceived time and again?

At one stage the Egyptian president said that he would resign if his initiative failed. His initiative has now failed, as he himself, Carter and his administration, and Europe have all admitted. Furthermore, all the Arabs, the Asian and African countries, and even Yugoslav President Tito, Egypt's principal friend, have also admitted this. So why hasn't the Egyptian president resigned yet?

At another stage President as-Sadat said that he would go to the Egyptian People's Assembly and tell its members everything frankly, and leave it to them to adopt whatever decisions they deem proper. So why hasn't he gone to his honorable assembly and told its members all the facts?

What can we say to As-Sadat? We believe there is one point--though it may appear marginal and extremely small--that we can place before him: Now that 4 months have passed since his visit to occupied Jerusalem, we challenge the Egyptian president to call for a public discussion at 'Abidin Square. But we wish to remind him that the Egyptian people's wrath against him has reached its climax.

Mr President, when will you rush to retract your steps before it is too late? Do so this time for your own sake, for matters now seem to have reached the crucial point. Naturally we are not talking here about the interests of your people and nation, or about what history will have to say about you. Mr President, retract your steps--and quickly--for you are now a heavy burden on the shoulders of your own people, and even on the shoulders of your friends in Washington and occupied Jerusalem, who are contemplating replacing you so that they may find a way out of the impasse into which all have now fallen.

When you retract your steps, Mr President, you will have to cross the western desert again, peacefully this time, for one sole reason: to return to Egypt at the head of a large army of missiles, aircraft, tanks, naval units and strong soldiers trained in the tactics of modern warfare so that with these and the help of the Egyptian army you can retrieve Sinai and the dignity of Egypt and your name in history.

But if you persist with your stubbornness, as you are doing now, then soon you will find that even members of the Egyptian People's Assembly, your stronghold, will demand that you be put on trial on the charge of high treason, as France did following Hitler's defeat when it put Marshal Petain on trial on the charge of high treason.

MAURITANIA

MAURITANIAN, SPANISH PARTIES ISSUE JOINT COMMUNIQUE

PA012345Y Paris AFP in French 1634 GMT 1 Apr 78 PA

[Text] Nouakchott, 1 Apr (AFP)--The Spanish Socialist Workers Party [PSOE] and the Mauritanian People's Party [PPM] issued a joint communique here today at the end of a 3-day visit to Mauritania by the PSOE delegation. The communique says that the two parties have agreed to work "toward the strengthening of Mauritanian-Spanish cooperation."

The communique does not mention, at least directly, the Sahara issue, which has so often been discussed by the PSOE, whose sympathy for the POLISARIO is well known, and the PPM. It merely reaffirms the two parties ideals of freedom and democracy and their support for the economic and cultural demands of the people.

The PPM and the PSOE also express "their determination to follow a policy of active neutrality regarding the opposing blocs. In this respect they denounce expansionism, as well as pressure and repression in relations between sovereign nations." The two parties express their "all-out" support of the "liberation struggle" being waged by the peoples of Namibia, Zimbabwe and South Africa and by the Palestinians "to recover their national rights."

SUDAN

MINISTERS LEAVE FOR TOUR OF AFRICAN STATES

LD012036Y Omdurman Domestic Service in Arabic 1300 GMT 1 Apr 78 LD/EA

[Text] Mr 'Izz ad-Din Hamid, minister of state for the Council of Ministers, has begun his tour of northern and western African states which will last for about 1 month. During the tour he will deliver messages from the president of the republic inviting the heads of state of those countries to attend the African summit conference, which will begin in July this year. He will also bring up issues connected with the current situation in the African Continent. Mr Francis Deng [minister of state for foreign affairs], left Khartoum yesterday for a similar tour of east African states.

TUNISIA

PRIME MINISTER NOUIRA RETURNS FROM SAUDI ARABIA

LD312031Y Tunis Domestic Service in Arabic 1900 GMT 31 Mar 78 LD

[Summary] The prime minister, Hedi Nouira, returned to Tunis this evening at the end of his official visit to Saudi Arabia. At the airport he said that the purpose of his visit was to reinforce relations between the two countries in all fields. He said there was no need to comment at length. He would leave that to the president.

U.S. CONGRESSIONAL DELEGATION CONTINUES TALKS

LD311939Y Tunis Domestic Service in Arabic 1600 GMT 31 Mar 78 LD

[Text] This morning Abdallah Farhat, minister of national defense, raised with a delegation from the U.S. House of Representatives questions on Tunisian-American relations, which are based on mutual respect and fruitful cooperation.

This morning Brahim Turki, secretary of state for affairs, explained to the delegation from the U.S. House of Representatives the foreign policy of Tunisia. He was replying to questions raised by members of the delegation about cooperation between the two countries, development, the situation prevailing in the Mediterranean, relations among the Arab Maghreb countries and also the Middle East conflict.

On the latter issue the secretary of state pointed out that the responsibility of every side in the drive to achieve peace and justice seems clearer today than at any other time, and that all efforts should converge to enable world public opinion to have an impact in order to reach a solution which guarantees the territorial integrity of states and the right of peoples to self-determination. Brahim Turki recorded with satisfaction the echo of the change in U.S. public opinion, represented in a better understanding of the facts of the Arab-Israeli conflict.

The U.S. delegation also visited the National Assembly this morning, where Deputy Speaker Tijani Belhaj Amar talked about political and parliamentary life in Tunisia. The talks which were held on the occasion dealt with Tunisian-American relations, which are characterized by mutual respect and cooperation. Members of the delegation [words indistinct] Bashir Boubaid, secretary general of the assembly, gave them a historical talk about its [words indistinct] and facts about its work and deliberations.

Upon leaving Tunisia this afternoon, the leader of the U.S. delegation said that the delegation's talks with Tunisian officials were characterized by cordiality and frankness and proved the strength of friendship between the two countries. He thanked Abdallah Farhat, Brahim Turki and Tijani Benhaj Amar for the warm welcome accorded to the American Congressional delegation.

SAYAH VISITS BIZERTE, COMMENTS ON POLITICAL SYSTEM

LD301427Y Tunis L'ACTION in French 23 Mar 78 p 5 LD

[Unattributed report: "Mr Mohamed Sayah Continues His Visit to Bizerte Province: Bourguiba's Party Is Open to Young People and Endeavors To Insure Worthy Living Conditions for All Tunisians"]

[Excerpts] Continuing his visit in Bizerte Province, Mr Mohamed Sayah, party director and minister-delegate to the prime minister, reached Bizerte Tuesday afternoon, where he first held a working session at the offices of the coordinating committee with the regional delegates and the members of the coordinating committee in the presence of Governor Abdelmalek Laarif. This session was devoted to examining the political situation in the region.

Then the party director installed Mr Mohamed Troudi in his new job as secretary general of the Bizerte Coordinating Committee, where he replaces Mr Amor Bejaoui, who was recently appointed private secretary to the minister of the interior.

After this ceremony Mr Mohamed Sayah chaired an open forum at the Bizerte Palace of Congresses in which many pupils and teachers of the region's secondary schools participated. The participants' speeches related essentially to the necessity of strengthening the attention paid by the party to young people, to the multiparty system and to the events of 26 January.

In his reply Mr Sayah noted that the frank dialog which characterized this debate was proof, if proof is needed, that freedom is a palpable fact in Tunisia. Moreover, he said, direct contact between citizens and officials offers the opportunity to exchange viewpoints and to take a close look at citizens' concerns with a view to implementing their aspirations. In this the party remains open to young people and endeavors to advance the Tunisian citizen and to obtain worthy living conditions for him.

Bourguiba's party, Mr Sayah asserted, views the future with optimism because it is firmly convinced of the individual's capacity always to act better and to distinguish the wheat from the chaff. Thus the state's titanic efforts in education are aimed at promoting generations which are conscious of their responsibilities and endowed with rational faculties of thought while sheltering them from destructive currents whose proponents seek to sow doubt and confusion. Diversity of opinions is inherent in human nature, he stressed. We recognize the right to differ. However, it is essential to work always to narrow the gap as much as possible between ideas, however mutually antagonistic they may be, and to do this through frank dialog and consultation in order to avoid all disunity in the ranks since the essential thing is to operate from the same platform in solving problems.

[illegible] Tunisians continue to believe in the utility of the class struggle, although many European communist parties have abandoned this theory, which is an anachronism today. For their part the Tunisian people through their very nature reject the communist system for many reasons, of which their membership of Islam is not the least.

Analyzing the idea of a single party, Mr. Mohamed Sayah noted that well-defined historical circumstances led to the emergence of several parties in European countries. Other circumstances have necessitated the maintenance of the single-party system in Tunisia in the sense that the neo-Destour party has had to assume responsibility alone for the national liberation struggle and to fight today the battle of development with the same resolution and enthusiasm, far from any form of coercion. In fact the theory of the Destourian Socialist Party is modern and evolutionary and is born of the actual reality of the country. The events which we witness almost everywhere in the world testify to the rightness of this orientation, which is in perfect accord with the imperatives of the advancement of the Tunisian people. The thing is that the party has always resorted to sweeping solutions in its effort to develop Tunisian society. These solutions amount, in particular, to placing the problem of reducing unemployment in the forefront of the objectives of the development plans since there can be no dignity nor freedom, still less democracy, without the citizen being guaranteed a means of subsistence and without the establishment of social justice. At the same time it is a matter of avoiding anything likely to harm the cohesion of the people's ranks at a time when they are fighting against underdevelopment.

Thus, Mr. Sayah continued, our socialist choice is extremely clear. The best proof of it is the state control of 70 percent of investments and the implementation of a contract policy which guarantees the rights of all the social partners. Certain deviationist elements of the former leadership of the Tunisian General Federation of Labor, motivated by personal ambition, rejected this policy and did not hesitate to resort to dishonest procedures in order to achieve their designs, attempting to damage the authority of the state. It was then that the painful events which have deeply distressed the entire Tunisian people occurred. In fact certain people had misinterpreted the flexibility displayed by the government in its dialog with the trade union center as a sign of weakness. In reality the government, which is of the people and which works for the people, has chosen the path of tolerance and dialog and will not abandon it so long as it guarantees citizens' security and tranquillity.

WESTERN SAHARA

SDAR COMMUNIQUE ISSUED ON MARCH OPERATIONS

LD022253Y Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic 2200 GMT 2 Apr 78 LD

[Text] Fifty Moroccan soldiers were killed and others were wounded and a number of military vehicles were destroyed, according to a Saharan Democratic Arab Republic Defense Ministry communique on military operations against the aggressors at the end of March. The communique states that the Saharan forces defeated the aggressive Moroccan forces in that period at Guelta Zemmur. The Saharan forces prepared the way for this operation by heavy shelling of the positions of the occupation forces. They managed to destroy the post and the military ammunition in it.

The communique also states that the Saharan revolutionaries foiled an attempt by the Moroccan Royal Air Force following that attack, and they shot down a helicopter belonging to the formation which tried to defend the post. The occupiers carried out another attempt by land, but this also failed.

BRIEFS

ROMANIAN ECONOMIC MISSION--Within the framework of the relations of friendship between the governments of the Moroccan Kingdom and the Romanian Socialist Republic, a Romanian economic mission visited Morocco from 25 March to 1 April. The Romanian mission included foreign trade and international economic cooperation officials. The mission had a number of contacts with Moroccan officials and with those who run the private sector. The delegation also visited Casablanca. During the contacts with Moroccan officials the Romanian delegation expressed astonishment at the degree of development in Morocco. The Romanian and Moroccan sides agreed to double the exchange of visits by businessmen in order to attain the maximum degree of development of trade between the two countries. [Text] [Rabat Domestic Service in Arabic 2000 GMT 2 Apr 78 LD]

PSOE DELEGATION TO MAURITANIA--A delegation of the Spanish Socialist Workers Party [PSOE] left Madrid this morning for Nouakchott at the invitation of the Mauritanian Government. The delegation is composed of Rafael Ballesteros and Luis Fajardo of the PSOE Federal Executive Committee, and Emilio Menendez Del Valle, who is in charge of African affairs in the party's International Committee. The aim of the journey is, according to a communique issued today by the PSOE Press Department, to continue the contacts the party is making in Africa. During these contacts there will be an exchange of impressions on questions affecting the North African region, including those of the Western Sahara and the Canaries. The delegation will also discuss bilateral questions which could have a bearing on future Spanish-Mauritanian relations. Later today Felipe Gonzalez, PSOE secretary general, and Alfonso Guerra, secretary for organization, are due to leave for Italy to take part as delegates in the congress of the Italian Socialist Party which opened this morning. [Text] [Madrid Domestic Service in Spanish 1130 GMT 29 Mar 78 LD]

JOURNALIST WILL NOT REVEAL SOURCE FOR 'U.S. REMARKS ON BEGIN'

TA311010Y Tel Aviv HA'AREZ in Hebrew 31 Mar 78 p 2 TA

[Text] The broadcasting authority has decided not to give any information about the identity of the source of the report broadcast over the radio, according to which a U.S. personality told an Israeli personality that the prime minister should be replaced.

The broadcasting authority spokesman reported that the radio's political correspondent, Shalom Qital, who broadcast the report, gave details of the sources of his information to the director general of the broadcasting authority, Yizhaq Livni. The latter checked the details of the report and the way it was broadcast, but, in accordance with professional ethics, he was not entitled to disclose his sources of information.

The spokesman pointed out that the broadcasting authority would be emphatically opposed to a radio correspondent being examined by a lie detector, unless there were a request from the journalists' council or a court. He said that it was almost certain that they would not ask a journalist to reveal his sources of information.

Dayan 'Not Source'

TA311015Y Tel Aviv HA'AREZ in Hebrew 31 Mar 78 p 2 TA

[Text] Foreign Minister Moshe Dayan yesterday emphatically denied the claim by MK Yosi Sarid that he had been the source of the report broadcast over the radio last week about a U.S. opinion that the prime minister should be replaced.

In a talk with HA'AREZ, the foreign minister said yesterday that Sarid's version has no foundations in fact. Dayan pointed out that in his talk with Brzezinski there was no mention whatsoever, in any form, of a U.S. evaluation that Mr Begin was the obstacle to peace and that in any case, he, the foreign minister, could not have been the source of the report.

CORRESPONDENT DISCUSSES U.S. INVOLVEMENT IN ISRAEL

TA311417Y Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 31 Mar 78 p 18 TA

[Uri Dan commentary: "Israelis tell all--Americans know all"]

[Excerpts] Throughout the years of Israel's existence the U.S. Embassy has never had such close ties with the Israeli Defense Ministry as it has today.

U.S. Ambassador Samuel Lewis and his aides maintain an unprecedented day-to-day contact with the leaders of the Israeli defense establishment. These meetings are not only of a substantive nature in which pressing matters--over which the defense establishment has responsibility and about which the Americans wish to be kept up to date--are discussed, but they also take on a wide social aspect in the framework of which senior Israeli defense establishment representatives freely discuss the domestic political situation in Israel and the mutual influence between the peace process and the war between Israel and the Arabs.

Foreign Minister Moshe Dayan has complained and expressed concern to his team of close advisers about these meetings saying, "I was defense minister for 7 years during which I met with U.S. Ambassador Barbor for a talk no more than six or seven times. On most of these occasions Prime Minister Golda Meir was present. When she asked me I would come to discuss one or another issue with the U.S. Ambassador."

To back up his remarks, Dayan explained that during the years he served as defense minister there were more than enough issues under urgent discussion between the United States and Israel, such as Soviet involvement in the war of attrition, Syrian involvement in Jordan, and, of course, the Yom Kippur war. Despite this, one can count on the fingers of one hand the number of times that he met with Ambassador Barbor, despite his personal friendship toward Israel and his symbolizing the honeymoon years between Washington and Jerusalem.

Of course, when saying this Dayan forgets that he maintained special contact with the United States on a much higher level than the U.S. Embassy in Tel Aviv. This does not refer to trips to Washington on behalf of the Israeli Government but to "private" and "personal" ideas that he submitted either directly, in these talks, or via representatives. The best known of these is the idea of a partial settlement at the Suez Canal, submitted in September 1970, first by his political partner and friend at that time, Gad Ya'aqobi, who was visiting Washington.

At any rate, when the Carter administration took power and when Yizhaq Rabin reached a crisis on his first meeting with the new president in Washington--a trip that was originally aimed at helping the Alinement win the elections in Israel--and afterwards, when Rabin was forced to resign, the Americans placed all their bets on Shim'on Peres. In general terms, at least, they already spoke about a Peres trip to Washington as soon as he was elected prime minister of Israel--as if this was not only that Washington desired but was already a foregone conclusion.

The involvement of U.S. representatives with Israeli politicians, leaders of the defense establishment and the molders of public opinion perhaps appeared natural to the administration in Washington for another reason--and hadn't Washington administrations occasionally asked the Israeli Government to intervene on their behalf among the pro-Israel lobby--the U.S. Jewish community? At the request of the Ford administration, alinement leaders and their ambassadors served as errand boys to help in the elections on behalf of the defeated President Gerald Ford.

This intervention by the Israeli Government in U.S. domestic affairs did not go unnoticed by Jimmy Carter and his team in Georgia. In autumn 1976 his aides told me that they were amazed, confused and angry at the intervention of the Israeli Government and its embassy in Washington in U.S. domestic affairs. Why not remain neutral, I was asked by the Jewish advisers of presidential candidate Jimmy Carter, whose fate during that autumn was in the balance.

Of course, the present U.S. involvement in Israel's domestic political affairs is not just a retaliatory measure for those days when Jordan and Jody Powell were conducting the election campaign for "Jimmy who?" However, the Israeli involvement in the United States, which was personalized by Rabin more than by anyone else during the Richard Nixon period--or the Kissinger period--might provide the administration with moral justification for what it is now doing to Israel.

U.S. involvement in Israel is of a totally different nature and inclination. Any Israeli move toward peace or war will influence essential U.S. interests in the Middle East and this is the reason for the U.S. infiltration into all branches of Israel's Government--and, of course, the continuation of the "exploitation of success" of the Rabin-Peres days in the cultivation of close ties with the Israeli defense establishment.

It is no surprise that Israeli political secrets find their way into the pages of the U.S. press. This phenomenon first began toward the end of the Alinement government. Secret information that Israel legitimately had to put at the disposal of the United States--such as the various procurement plans; the Matmon plans regarded as most highly classified--was leaked in Washington to the U.S. press in the framework of the war to turn public opinion against Israel.

It is hard to remember a period in which secrets like these were being handed around, in return for a few cents, in the U.S. press as they have been in the past 2 years; just as it is hard to estimate the damage from the publication of such information or other information that goes by word of mouth that can be caused to Israel in its political moves--especially in the event of war when it faces an Arab-Soviet attack.

Menahem Begin has not changed things in this sphere. He has not restored the Ben-Gurion and Golda Meir system of conducting and supervising U.S.-Israel contacts from a position of control.

Moreover, it is amazing that Foreign Minister Moshe Dayan, who complains about the independent network of relations that have developed between the U.S. Embassy and the defense establishment, did not oppose certain issues being taken out of his hands. For example, in September-October last year, when the IDF was active in Lebanon and Jimmy Carter demanded an Israeli withdrawal, all day-to-day political and defense contacts on that issue were put in the hands of the Ministry of Defense.

Therefore, one cannot be surprised at what the foreign minister told his people openly when the Israeli delegation returned from Cairo after conducting talks there:

"It is natural that I, as foreign minister, receive the first report from the delegation, but I received the first report from U.S. Ambassador Samuel Lewis. An hour after the delegation returned from Cairo the ambassador phoned me and gave me the details of what happened in Cairo...."

DAVAR NOTES BEGIN'S CAIRO-WASHINGTON DILEMMA

TA311948Y Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew 31 Mar 78 p 14 TA

[Haggay Eshed commentary: Begin's Dilemma]

[Text] One of the mistakes Prime Minister Menahem Begin most regrest is his visit to Washington in December, when he took his peace plan to President Carter to receive his approval before it was presented to President Anwar as-Sadat in Ismailia. A source of misunderstandings and unpleasantness between Israel and the United States and even between Israel and Egypt was created, and it continues to this day. Menahem Begin was entangled in a contradiction from which he was not able to free himself until now--the contradiction between direct Israeli-Egyptian negotiations and U.S. mediation. Until now the Israeli political ship has been caught between these two rocks, with serious danger behind both of them.

Paradoxically--and the paradoxes in which Begin's cabinet gets involved are so numerous--Foreign Minister Moshe Dayan represents the pole of U.S. mediation among the Israeli trio busy at present conducting the negotiations, while Defense Minister 'Ezer Weizman is the major proponent of direct Israeli-Egyptian negotiations. As a matter of fact not only does Weizman support it, but he is the chief negotiator with Egypt on behalf of Israel, as became evident in his journey to Cairo yesterday. [paragraph continues]

Weizman did not avoid publicly criticizing roving U.S. Ambassador Alfred Atherton, who was specially designated for the purpose of mediating. Weizman also knows how to remind Menahem Begin of the mistake of going to Carter before Ismailia. Moshe Dayan, too, cannot deny in principle the preferability of the live and direct Israeli-Arab negotiations whose representative par excellence was none other than he himself, while as part of his job now as foreign minister and due to the circumstances, he is now specifically dealing with contacts with the United States, even though the chief negotiator is the prime minister.

U.S. mediation has advantages and disadvantages. The most obvious disadvantage is that at the end of the mediation process the danger lurks that the United States will attempt to set forth a "peace plan" which will be an imposed solution. "The honest mediator" may decide that he must end his mediation at a certain time, if it did not manage to bring the parties to an agreement by then, and propose his own plan for the two parties, a plan which in effect will be a dictate. Even now we can hear Egyptian requests that the United States do so, and hints by the United States that such a possibility is not inconceivable even though at this point it may be premature.

One of the goals of the big Israeli concession to give up "all of the Sinai" was to create an opening stage for direct Israeli-Egyptian negotiations. That was the main purpose of the preliminary Israeli concession and the reason it was kept a secret, so as not to embarrass President As-Sadat (so that he would not be blamed for having plotted with Israel in advance to "trade" the Sinai for the Palestinians. Israel has paid the price of Sinai to enable As-Sadat to bypass the obstacle of the U.S. mediation and of the imposed solution lying in wait at its end and to try to reach a peace agreement on the basis of direct negotiations and a recognition of the legitimacy of Israel, which is included in such an agreement. After the breakthrough had been made, at a heavy price, Menahem Begin, for some reason, got scared of his own bravery and returned to the lap of U.S. mediation.

Now Weizman is trying to renew the days of the direct negotiations. His chances for success are not great. He may be forced to make painful Israeli concessions in return for As-Sadat's agreement to renew the negotiations in the two committees agreed upon at Ismailia. Perhaps President As-Sadat will agree to "save" Menahem Begin in order to continue the negotiations with him on the basis of further concessions which Begin was so far not ready to make. If As-Sadat does not get a favorable response from Weizman, he will be able to return to the whip of U.S. mediation and imposition which will be waved over the head of a different Menahem Begin--a Menahem Begin whose image as peacemaker is dulled, and someone whom U.S. public opinion increasingly tends to blame for the possible failure of the negotiations with Egypt or of the U.S. mediation, or both. Begin is on the horns of a dilemma--between Washington and Cairo. Weizman was sent to Cairo, Dayan will be sent to Washington. In a short while we will know if Begin is left with the choice between these two possibilities, or if he managed to find an agreeable fusion between the direct negotiations with As-Sadat and its price, and the "precoordination" with the United States, which he scorned in his first visit in the United States in July, only to come rushing back to it in December.

Israel has already paid in advance by freezing the settlements until the future of the negotiations is cleared. A further step which Israel will have to make is the recognition that Resolution 242 also applies on the Jordanian front in order to open a loophole for the inclusion of King Husayn in the negotiations for solving the connected problems of the Palestinians and the West Bank. [paragraph continues]

After that there will be a need to find a formula to bridge all the gaps that remain in the declaration of principles. There will be a need to bypass the stumbling block of a "referendum" in the West Bank in 5 years, which both the Likud and the Alinement reject. There will be a need to bypass the stumbling block of the recognition of "the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people."

Will President as-Sadat be ready to help bypass these stumbling blocks, or will it be learned that he means to scatter more stumbling blocks after the existing ones are overcome? Is he interested in direct negotiations with Israel or in imposed U.S. mediation? We can only know that after Weizman and Dayan return from their missions to Cairo and to Washington.

REPORTAGE, COMMENT ON WEIZMAN'S CONTACTS IN CAIRO

Talks Not Failure

TA311244Y Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 1200 GMT 31 Mar 78 TA

[Excerpt] Defense Minister Weizman is back in Israel. He returned from Cairo earlier this afternoon. Before leaving the Egyptian capital he had a second meeting with Egyptian President as-Sadat. It was also attended by Vice President Mubarak and the Egyptian war minister, Al-Jamasi. According to Cairo Radio, this morning's meeting was a continuation of the talks Weizman had with As-Sadat yesterday.

Weizman's Israel air force Westwind aircraft landed at Sde Dov airfield outside Tel Aviv. The defense minister left immediately for Jerusalem to report to Prime Minister Begin. No arrival statements were made. Attempting to sum up reports of the Cairo trip is Arye Yehezqel: [begin recording]

On the official level the contrast between Israeli and Egyptian sources on the Weizman visit could hardly be more marked. The Israelis are maintaining a total and discreet silence. The Egyptians, on the other hand, are being outspoken and almost totally negative. When it comes to unofficial reaction the picture is only marginally different. Defense Minister Weizman is quoted as having told Prime Minister Begin on the telephone last night that his talks with President as-Sadat and other Egyptian leaders had been interesting. The afternoon paper YEDI'OT AHARONOT quotes unnamed Israeli sources in Cairo as saying that the talks were very far from a failure. These unidentified Israelis in the Egyptian capital add that there is indeed a wide discrepancy between what has been published in Cairo and what actually happened in the talks which, they say, can serve as a basis for progress. The sources conclude that things are moving.
[end recording]

Weizman Reports To Begin

TA311443Y Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1400 GMT 31 Mar 78 TA

[Text] A meeting between the Prime Minister and Defense Minister 'Ezer Weizman ended at the prime minister's home about an hour ago. Weizman briefed the prime minister on his meetings in Cairo with President as-Sadat and with the defense minister, 'Abd al-Ghani al-Jamasi. At the end of the meeting Weizman refused to give details and told the newsmen crowded around the prime minister's home: Never in my life have I been pessimistic and I am not pessimistic now. The meeting lasted for 40 minutes. On Sunday the defense minister will report to the cabinet on his trip to Cairo.

Commentator Reviews Talks

TA311632Y Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1505 GMT 31 Mar 78 TA

[From the Weekly Newsreel]

[Text] At noon Defense Minister 'Ezer Weizman returned from talks in Cairo with President as-Sadat and War Minister al-Jamasi. In Jerusalem an information blackout has been imposed on the talks in Cairo. Our political correspondent Shalom Qital has this report:

Defense Minister 'Ezer Weizman and the government legal adviser, Prof Aharon Baraq, after landing in Tel Aviv went immediately to Prime Minister Menahem Begin's home in Jerusalem. The meeting with the prime minister was brief, lasting only 40 minutes. The meeting was devoted to a report by Weizman and Baraq. On Sunday the report will be submitted to the cabinet, following which a political discussion will be conducted.

What has been achieved in the talks? There is a blackout on the content of the talks, but I could not discern a pessimistic tenor here in Jerusalem. The feeling is that the talks will continue. There is no crisis, even though neither has any apparent breakthrough been accomplished. 'Ezer Weizman, on emerging from the talk with the prime minister, said: I have never been pessimistic and I am not pessimistic now. The Cairo talks focused on the attempt to renew the discussions of the Political and the Military committees. For this reason an attempt was apparently made to bridge the gap in the declaration of principles. The five clauses that Israel proposed in the talks in Washington seem to be closer to the Egyptian position than ever before. Attempts are now being made to formulate a declaration which the Egyptians could present to the Arab world as an achievement in the Palestinian issue.

Israel's position can be summed up in the following principal points: Israel is ready for a withdrawal from Sinai without, however, evacuating the existing settlements in the Rafah approaches. No new settlements would be established there in the near future. Israel is declaring its willingness to admit the Arabs of Judaea, Samaria and Gaza to the process of negotiations, with the participation of Israel, Egypt, Jordan and representatives of Arabs from Eretz Yisra'el. Israel objects to a national referendum in Judaea, Samaria and Gaza; and it rejects an independent Palestinian state there. Israel requests leaving open the question of sovereignty in the autonomy that would be granted to Judaea, Samaria and Gaza, and to reconsider the situation there after 5 years. There will be an Israeli military presence in Judaea, Samaria and Gaza, and there will be Jewish settlements there. The government will decide on the establishment of every new settlement in those areas. Israel desires to conclude the negotiations with peace treaties with the Arab countries. Israel accepts Security Council Resolution 242 in full, but without additions that would mention and emphasize a withdrawal from Judaea and Samaria.

It should be stressed that on the points of the peace treaties, on the opposition to an independent Palestinian state as well as on the opposition to negotiations with the PLO there is agreement between the United States and Israel. One more important point: The United States is not demanding a withdrawal to the 1967 lines and is not talking, as it was wont to do up to 6 months ago, about minimum modifications. It refrains from referring to this question of slight modifications.

Weizman Comments on Talks

TA011742Y Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1700 GMT 1 Apr 78 TA

[Text] The defense minister said that his visit in Egypt was not the last one; there will be more. Mr Weizman was speaking to Herut movement youths in Ramat Gan. Had Menahem Begin not been prime minister, Mr Weizman said, Anwar as-Sadat would not have come to Jerusalem. Ben-Gurion signed the declaration of independence, he added, and I hope that Begin will sign the charter of peace.

Our correspondent Sara Frankel reports that the defense minister said that perseverance and patience are needed, as well as a firm insistence on Israel's vital requirements. According to Mr Weizman there is no basis to reports alleging that there is a conflict between him and the prime minister, or between him and one of the ministers.

Cabinet Issues Statement

TA021614Y Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1500 GMT 2 Apr 78 TA

[From the Evening Newsreel]

[Text] The Government of Israel today expressed regret that its proposal to renew the negotiations within the Political and Military committees had been rejected by the Egyptian Government. This statement was released at the end of the cabinet's weekly session, which lasted for about 4 and 1/2 hours. The statement was released by government secretary Arye Na'or. [begin recording]

The cabinet heard a report by the defense minister and by the government legal adviser on their talks in Cairo. The cabinet expressed its regret that its proposal to renew the negotiations in the framework of the Political Committee and the Military Committee had been rejected by the Government of Egypt. The Israeli Government is expressing its hope that the Government of Egypt will reconsider Israel's positive proposals, which will facilitate a renewal of the negotiations for peace in the area. [end recording]

At this hour a briefing by the cabinet secretary is nearing its end in Jerusalem, a briefing in which he gives further details on the cabinet session. The details are reported by our political correspondent Yosi La'or:

Following the detailed reports by the defense minister and the government's legal adviser, the cabinet held a discussion, in which most of the cabinet members took part. The discussion, which included the overall aspects of the political subject, was held by the cabinet in its capacity as the Ministerial Committee for Security Affairs. At the end of the reports and the discussion, which lasted for about 3 hours, the cabinet adopted by general consent and without voting the concluding statement. The draft proposal was submitted by the prime minister. Except for this statement, no further decisions were adopted and, accordingly, no other votes took place in the cabinet meeting.

Why does Israel request that the negotiations be renewed in the framework of the committees? The cabinet secretary explained that President as-Sadat and Prime Minister Begin decided in Ismailia that this was the way to work out the peace agreement. The committees are capable of working out the details of the settlement. On the other hand, summit meetings, explained the cabinet secretary, are general and cannot formulate a peace agreement.

Does the fact that Mr Weizman's proposal to reactivate the [illegible] rejected prove that this trip ended in failure? The cabinet secretary answered that this impression is incorrect. He said: I am not authorized to say whether progress has been made.

The cabinet also discussed a number of possible dates for another As-Sadat-Weizman meeting, but the cabinet secretary said he couldn't specify an exact date. The meeting will take place in the next few weeks, and if President as-Sadat is speaking about next week, he is sure to know what he is talking about, said the cabinet secretary.

In the political discussion held by the cabinet mention was also made of the recent reports in Egypt to the effect that the prime minister is demonstrating intransigence. These reports were rejected by a number of cabinet members, including Deputy Prime Minister Prof Yiga'el Yadin.

Dayan on Talks

TA022054Y Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 2000 GMT 2 Apr 78 TA

[From a special Newsreel]

[Text] I hope that the talks between Israel and Egypt will be renewed either in talks between the defense minister and the Egyptian president or in the committees. I hope that the Americans will continue with their mediation efforts either by sending envoys to the region or through our going to the United States. Foreign Minister Dayan said this this evening at Ben-Gurion Airport before leaving for Romania on an official 3-day visit. Our correspondent Raz Livnat was at the airport and has these excerpts from the foreign minister's remarks: [begin recording]

[Dayan] The disappointment [over Weizman's talks in Egypt] was due to the fact that the request of Israel's prime minister for a renewal of the committees' work was turned down. This is what we regret. The hope is that the meetings or the continuation of the negotiations within any framework--even if the committees do not renew their work--will continue, be it through direct meetings like, for example, with the defense minister, or by another way with U.S. mediation. I hope that the contacts and the negotiations will continue. [end recording]

Asked whether the Egyptians prefer negotiations between Defense Minister 'Ezer Weizman and Egypt's President Anwar as-Sadat to negotiations in various committees, the defense minister replied: [begin recording]

As for the fact that they do not wish to maintain the committees--this is a fact, even though one of the committees was headed by Weizman. [end recording]

To the question of whether the foreign minister will soon be going to the United States and when, Mr Dayan answered: [begin recording]

I am not going to the United States. I was not invited. While we were in the United States, the conclusion and the last statements we heard from the U.S. representatives were that they want the contacts and their mediation to continue and that after the U.S. President and the secretary of state return from their visit to South America and Africa they will renew activity on this issue. Whether that activity will necessitate our sending representatives to the United States, I do not know. They might send their representatives here. In any case, I hope that the U.S. activity will continue, and should it be necessary we shall send people to Washington. [end recording]

DMC COUNCIL ADOPTS STATEMENT ON PEACE TALKS

TA022235Y Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 2145 GMT 2 Apr 78 TA

[From the Midnight Newsreel]

[Excerpts] The DMC Council this evening gave its backing to a draft resolution saying that the cabinet's peace plan and Security Council Resolution 242 are the basis for peace negotiations. The DMC rejects the position of Egypt, which imposes preconditions for the peace talks. Our correspondent Eli'ezer Bene Gil attended the discussion in the DMC Council:

The political discussion was opened by the chairman of the party, Yiga'el Yadin, who stressed that the peace plan of the cabinet is the best solution--under present circumstances--for reaching a settlement in the Middle East. It must be remembered, however, Yadin stressed, that the current situation is crucial, delicate and fateful. There are still many things for which silence is best.

The draft resolution of the movement's security committee was adopted by majority vote, without objections and with only two members abstaining. The draft proposal states that the peace plan, as approved by the Knesset, is the basis for negotiations with Egypt and with the other Arab countries. The DMC rejects the Egyptian position imposing preconditions in negotiations for peace. A lasting agreement will be achieved only if both sides agree that everything is open to negotiation. The Palestinian problem is one of the questions requiring a solution in the context of a peace settlement with Jordan. The DMC will continue to oppose the establishment of a third, Palestinian, state between Jordan and Israel.

Labor Party on Peace Talks

TA022238Y Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 2145 GMT 2 Apr 78 TA

[From the Midnight Newsreel]

[Text] The Labor Party bureau this evening submitted to the party's Central Committee the following proposal for the conclusion of the political discussion: The current government, under the leadership of the Herut movement and Menahem Begin, does not deserve the trust of the nation. The efforts for peace, the bureau says, have to be conducted along the lines laid out by the Alinement governments, on the basis of Resolution 242. The Palestinian Arabs, the bureau concludes, will be able to take part in determining their future in the context of negotiations for peace between Israel and the Jordanian-Palestinian state.

SPOKESMAN DENIES SYRIAN CHARGES OF PACT VIOLATIONS

TA022210Y Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 2145 GMT 2 Apr 78 TA

[From the Midnight Newsreel]

[Excerpts] Syria is accusing Israel of the gravest violation of the Golan disengagement agreement since May 1974. Syria is this evening claiming that an IDF unit crossed the dividing line along the Golan's southern sector and planted mines on the highway going south from Damascus to Dar'a. The IDF spokesman has denied the report. Our correspondent Yo-av Karmi has details:

The IDF spokesman denies the story that the IDF has planted mines deep inside Syria. The IDF has not engaged in any offensive action against Syria since the disengagement agreement in May 1974. The IDF is implementing and will implement the disengagement agreement and has no intention of striking against Syrian forces in any way.

30,000 ATTEND PEACE RALLY IN TEL AVIV

TA012033Y Jerusalem Domestic Television Service in Hebrew 1830 GMT 1 Apr 78 TA

[Excerpts] Many thousands of people are now taking part at a rally staged at Malkhe Yisra'el Square in Tel Aviv organized by the reserve officers who some time ago sent a letter to the prime minister. The rally is being held under the slogan: Peace in Israel Is Preferable to a Greater Israel.

The police estimate that about 30,000 people are attending the rally.

Ehrlich Condemns Rally

TA030752Y Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0605 GMT 3 Apr 78 TA

[From the Morning Newsreel]

[Text] The phenomenon of organizing political rallies under the aegis of officers has the smell of a putsch. These remarks were made yesterday by Finance Minister Simha Ehrlich in Tel Aviv in a political discussion held by the Liberal Party. The finance minister, who referred to the rally that took place on Saturday night in Tel Aviv's Malkhey Yisra'el Square, said that the demonstrations against the government's policy move peace further away rather than bring it closer. Our correspondent 'Ado Talmor reports on Minister Simha Ehrlich's remarks: [begin recording]

[Ehrlich] A year ago the U.S. President spoke about a homeland, he spoke about the PLO and about a Palestinian state. Today he has stopped talking about this, and this did not happen just like that. Today, the U.S. President talks about IDF forces in the West Bank--in Judaea and Samaria--without determining a date [presumably for evacuation]. This is progress. [end recording]

All the attacks on and criticism of the government's policy have no foundation and miss the target while encouraging As-Sadat, says Ehrlich. The prime minister's trip to Washington, said the finance minister, was not a failure. There are differences of opinion with the Americans, but it is a fact that the United States no longer speaks of a Palestinian state and a total withdrawal to the 1967 borders.

One of the participants in the debate said that if the government has not failed, then its information activity has failed. That is true, Minister Ehrlich said. The government has failed in its information activity and it will begin to step up information activity. [begin recording]

Look at the government as being made up of people of flesh and blood. People who act also make mistakes. One cannot go out on all fronts at the same time, but you must agree that admitting failure is also important. [applause] I am admitting this. Am I trying to find excuses? I say we have failed in our information activity. I have been saying this for 3 months, not just today.

I wish to end my remarks and say that the phenomenon of political rallies under the aegis of officers has the smell of a putsch and the use of military terms, which have no place in political rallies, should be condemned. [end recording]

HA'AREZ DETAILS BACKGROUND OF IDF LEBANON OPERATION

TA311303Y Tel Aviv HA'AREZ in Hebrew 31 Mar 78 p 13 TA

[Ze'ev Schiff commentary]

[Text] If we take literally the remarks by the planners of the "Litani campaign" in the cabinet and in the IDF general headquarters, we find that the planners assumed that this campaign would push the Syrians toward reaching a settlement with Israel on the matter of the terrorists in southern Lebanon. Maybe this appears to be absurd, but this is an assumption which is heard again and again with reference to one of the main objectives of the campaign: to change the situation in southern Lebanon.

Israel, then, thought that it would not be able to do this on its own and that it needed partners. It appears that the partners were to have been the Syrians and not the United Nations. Just as the war of attrition in the Jordan Rift Valley caused the government of Jordan to become our partner in controlling the terrorists, and just as the Syrians are silent partners in preventing terrorist actions from the Golan Heights, so it was expected that Damascus would be a silent partner, too, in this matter in southern Lebanon. It is clear that Israel would have had to give a certain quid pro quo to Damascus.

This is a new approach and a completely different view from that which the Likud presented when the Syrians invaded Lebanon and Begin and Weizman were in the opposition. As it turned out, the basic assumption prior to the campaign was that an IDF advance to a depth of about 10 km in southern Lebanon would cause the Syrians to prefer such a settlement to a worsening of the fighting. Now we are even told that it was specifically decided from the beginning that we should not reach the Litani River. This is because that river was considered to be a sort of "red line" in Syrian eyes. It was not the Americans who warned Israel not to reach the Litani, but Israel itself which decided at the beginning not to anger the Syrians. It decided not to make things difficult for them because it wanted them to be partners to a settlement which would lead to a change in southern Lebanon. Furthermore, when the Syrians advanced a certain force southward, Israel reacted in silence, even though previously it would have naturally set up terrible shouts as a result.

This is the explanation today and it is to be hoped that this is not the ex post facto explanation. In order to complete the explanation, the other side of the coin should be described--the U.S. side. In Israel it is claimed that the Americans disrupted the "Syrian process" because they rushed to push the United Nations in. When their proposal was put forward in the Security Council, Israel had no choice but to run to the Litani. In other words, if Israel took over all of southern Lebanon it was because of the U.S. proposal demanding the evacuation of the IDF and the immediate stationing of UN forces in the area. But, the "Syrian connection" did not end with that. Although the United Nations began to send a stream of forces into the area--and it now, to a very great extent, depends on these forces whether a real change will indeed take place in southern Lebanon--many security personnel are claiming that we should try to get the Syrians to take a more active part in the settlement in southern Lebanon.

This political-strategic program, as it is presented today, exposes several interesting facts regarding the "Litani campaign." First, there is no doubt that the Americans were in on the secret of the campaign before it began. We will not be wrong if we say that they knew in a general way the key points Israel was going to take in the strip along the border. [paragraph continues]

They expressed their concern over the negative developments in the peace process resulting from the campaign, but it appears to me that they did not express specific opposition to it. Had they wanted, they could certainly have made the campaign very difficult and maybe even prevented it altogether. In September 1977, when they wanted the IDF to leave the enclaves in southern Lebanon, a letter from President Carter to Prime Minister Begin was sufficient. It may be assumed that there was a form of silent U.S. agreement to the IDF campaign. It may be assumed that what encouraged them was the fact that the IDF plan did not deviate from a strip about 10 km (today it is known that the campaign was intended to have reached the Litani). [as published] It is reasonable to assume that already at that moment they thought that the opportunity they had been awaiting for a long time was likely to be created: The chance to introduce the United Nations into southern Lebanon and thus get rid of the presence of Israel and the presence of the terrorists in this area--and afterward to bring in the Lebanese government forces.

Another important question is: How and why was it determined that the first stage of the campaign should be conducted on a strip of about 10 km. Those close to the minister of defense say that the orders on the campaign did not speak at all of a security strip of 10 km, but that key points to be taken by the IDF were determined (such as (Ras Biyada), Bint Jubayl, At Tayyibah, Al Khiyam) about 4-8 km from the border. This strip recalls that clause in the Shtawra agreement which determined that the terrorists should withdraw to a line 10 km from the Israeli border. At that time the Americans appeared to be satisfied with the agreement, but Israel claimed that it was not. It may be that, in speaking of such a strip, Israel wanted to satisfy the Americans.

The 10-km line had no military significance other than that. The only military reasoning is that an advance to such a distance would fulfill the objective of unifying the Christian enclaves. A line with military significance could be held along geographical lines, such as the Litani River. Now we are being told that such a possibility was at first rejected out of the desire to reach a settlement with the Syrians. Another possibility of a line at which an advance could be stopped and a security strip created is at the limit of the range of the artillery and Katyusha rockets of the terrorists. This, of course, is much more than 10km. The commander of the northern command, Avigdor Ben-Gal, claims that the IDF wanted to guarantee that the terrorists would be pushed back beyond mortar range of the Israeli settlements. In actual fact, the mortars are not the bothersome weapons; for the most part the terrorists fire Katyushas, whose range is much greater.

By the way, since the battles with the Christians in September 1977 the terrorists have not acted from this border. Israel also calmly accepted the penetration of As-Sa'iqah personnel into Bint Jubayl about a week before the IDF campaign.

In other words, whoever determined the distance of 10 km did not determine a military line. He could have assumed that the terrorists would not pass in silence over the blow they were to absorb and would certainly react by shelling settlements. That is, even if the mukhtar of Tibnin had not raised a white flag and even if the United States had not proposed, in the Security Council, sending UN forces into southern Lebanon, it cannot be assumed that the 10-km advance would have ended the campaign. It is more reasonable that this would have just begun it. The IDF had to react to what would have developed afterward.

The difficulties do not end with this. What the chief of staff said is correct: IDF general headquarters did not need the advice of commentators to know that it was possible to drop forces from helicopters and surround the enemy. The IDF is very well aware of such maneuvers. It should be understood from this that if they did not surround the terrorists, this was done deliberately. [paragraph continues]

It was not only military reasons which dictated the rules of the military game, but also political reasons. That is, according to this explanation, and the chain of events, the IDF deliberately chose to push the terrorists back, while killing those who did not flee, instead of surrounding them from all sides and slaughtering as many as possible.

In the eyes of the IDF, the destruction of the terrorist infrastructure in southern Lebanon was more important than killing hundreds of thousands of them. If both these things could be achieved together--all the better. But the destruction of the infrastructure took precedence. After Israel had given up the surprise factor (apart from the strength of the forces used) it was clear that many of the thousands of terrorists there in the south would flee. Only a few stayed to fight and if one had wanted to slaughter them, the way to do it was not to push them back and conduct only tactical envelopments, but to carry out a full-scale encircling operation.

The reason for this is instructive. The IDF was prepared to give up hand-to-hand battles and place more reliance on massive firepower. (It was also this firepower which certainly brought about the mass exodus of refugees from the area.) It is not worth killing 100 terrorists if 10 or 5 fall from our side. Just as in the matter of Tyre and Ar-Rashidiyah they chose to leave openings for a retreat of civilians and terrorists, so, too, with regard to the rest of the territory. It is clear that the terrorists explain this now as a victory. I assume that this approach will now arouse many differences of opinion. The commander of the northern command, Avigdor Ben-Gal, who was the commander of the operation, put forward another explanation for the method used by the IDF: "We acted on the basic IDF doctrine, giving preference to quantitative forces in order to end with few losses. To do this meant going slowly and carefully."

These remarks, too, will certainly arouse questions, and particularly because it is not known that the IDF has changed its doctrine, which always used to be based on "moving quickly."

None of these things can blur the campaign's achievements. Matters turned out so that the IDF finally found itself on the Litani. As in many cases in the past, it succeeded in improvising and taking advantage of opportunities created (the surrender of villages, the Security Council decision). The success lay in the fact that the United Nations is now stationed along the Litani and not along the border with Israel or within the territory. The Christian enclaves have been unified and for the moment there are no terrorists in the strip, apart from the Tyre pocket and Ar-Rashidiyah. The continuation of this situation depends on the ability of the United Nations and on our will. Questions are already being raised about the position of the French toward the terrorists in Tyre. Israel has been asked to retreat, but has not been condemned, and the Syrians have not intervened.

The rest is dependent on containment. It will take time until the United Nations consolidates in the field. This commits the IDF to remaining in southern Lebanon for much longer than planned and calculated. Again there are proposals to incorporate the Syrians into a settlement and, of course, the Lebanese Government. The quid pro quo is: to permit them to advance south to the Litani. But this is nothing but a thought that has not yet been discussed by the Cabinet of Israel and neither does anybody know what the Syrians will say and whether they will be prepared to participate in such a settlement.

GENERAL GUR URGES REFUGEES TO RETURN TO S. LEBANON

TA012041Y Jerusalem Domestic Television Service in Hebrew 1830 GMT 1 Apr 78 TA

[Excerpts] Southern Lebanon has remained calm for the 3d successive day. At Tyre a lively traffic of vehicles from Beirut could be discerned today. Many refugees from the north have also arrived in the territory held by the IDF in order to examine the possibility of returning to their homes. Chief of Staff Lt Gen Mordekhay Gur toured the western sector today and our military correspondent 'Amiram Nir accompanied him: [begin videotape]

[Gur] It seems that the young people are afraid to return lest we accuse them of having cooperated with the terrorists. On the other hand, the terrorists in Beirut are apparently trying to enlist them in their ranks, and coerce them into not returning. I promised to say today officially and almost ceremoniously that they can return without fearing either us or the Christians under the command of (Shidiaq) and Haddad. They will receive every assistance the moment they return home. [end videotape]

HA'AREZ ASSESSES BEGIN NEGOTIATIONS STAND

TA311535Y Tel Aviv HA'AREZ in Hebrew 31 Mar 78 p 14 TA

['Uzzi Benziman Commentary: "Is Begin an Obstacle to Peace"]

[Text] In one of the talks Senator Javits held this week with Israeli personalities, he drew attention to a difficulty in the position taken by Menahem Begin, who claims that he cannot depart from his party's platform. On his last visit to Washington, the prime minister repeatedly told President Carter and his advisers, as well as to members of Congress, that it was not to be expected that he would abandon his positions in principle because it had been for them that he was elected to his position.

Begin said that the Likud platform was a contract between him and his electors and that he had been instructed not to depart from it. (Thus Begin, as it were, tried to hint to Carter: While you, Mr President, are departing from your platform on everything involving Israel).

Javits claimed to his Israeli hosts that this approach was not acceptable to the United States. The people of the United States cannot take under consideration the fact that the government has changed in the State of Israel and that the new cabinet has ideological commitments different from those of its predecessor. At any rate, mention of this reasoning did not advance Israel's information activities.

From Javits' comments it appears that the prime minister is the main factor making Israel's information efforts difficult. The comments exposed even the much more far-reaching claim heard in Israel, Egypt and the United States: Menahem Begin is the main stumbling block on the way to the achievement of peace.

Is this really so? If there were to ba a vote in the cabinet on the ideological question touching on Judaea and Samaria, Mr Begin would find himself in the minority. Most of the ministers do not feel as he does, that adherence to the idea of a greater Israel is preferable to any other principle. It is true that voting was held in the cabinet this week on the formulation of the decision (proposed by Ari'el Sharon, actually) which was intended to express personal support for Begin. When the issue is put forward for decision in the cabinet, it bears such a completely personal nature that it is not surprising that the result was a general backing given by the cabinet members to Begin. Things would not be like this if a sharp question were to be put forward for decision: peace or continuation of the adherence to the idea of a greater Israel.

Except that a doubt arises as to whether it is correct to attribute to Menahem Begin, the prime minister, the enthusiasm which characterized Menahem Begin, the leader of the opposition, when it debates the future of Judaea and Samaria. It appears that the Menahem Begin of March 1978 is different from the Menahem Begin of 1976, when he came out in the Knesset with touching emotion against one of the territorial compromise proposals put forward by the Rabin cabinet. "How can you dare to propose to divide up the homeland?" He then said with a pathos which sticks in the memory.

Today Menahem Begin is a prime minister who is only too well aware of what the last 9 months have done in the way of the pressure of the obstinate political reality. Today he understands better than he has ever done before that his role is to guarantee the peace of the country, not necessarily its size. He has realized from close up that Israel is a tiny satellite in the constellation of stars and factors determining international reality.

The future of the country is influenced by the cynical play of interests of a superpower and he--as prime minister--has to guarantee that Israel will not pay too heavy a price in order to satisfy some international need. Begin is also very well aware of the chance open to him of being noted in the history books not only as the first man to replace the rule of the labor movement, but also as the prime minister who brought peace to his nation, or, at least, advanced his nation's chances of living in peace.

I dare to claim that, because of this, Menahem Begin is also prepared to compromise. He has proved this over the last few months: He conceded his declared positions, that the law of the country must be applied to Judaea and Samaria; he cut to a minimum the settlement activity; he backed the orders and acts of 'Ezer Weizman, who today represents the concessions camp in the cabinet; he demonstrated flexibility during the debates over the formulation of the Israeli-Egyptian declaration of principles.

During his last talks in Washington, Begin's formulations also pointed at broad, practical possibilities. When the matter of the settlements was discussed, the prime minister told President Carter that the cabinet's position in principle was that Israel had the right to settle throughout Eretz Yisra'el and this action was not illegal nor did it make peace more difficult. At the same time, Begin also said that the cabinet did not have a policy of automatic settlement and that it would consider each settlement plan in accordance with the political circumstances.

When the status of Resolution 242 was discussed, the prime minister read the Israeli text of the declaration of principles, which says: "In the framework of this agreement and in accordance with Security Council Resolution 338, the two governments express their willingness to negotiate on peace agreements while fulfilling all the principles of Security Council Resolution 242, which will serve as a basis for negotiations between Israel and the neighboring countries."

When the specific question of whether the withdrawal principle applied to the West Bank was discussed, Begin drew out the relevant Israel version: "On the basis of all the principles of Resolution 242 mentioned above, there will be a withdrawal of the Israeli armed forces from territories conquered in 1967. There will be secure and recognized borders, within which each country will live in peace, free from threats and use of force." What is hidden behind these formulations? Begin is hinting to Carter that, in fact, there will be no settlements for as long as active negotiations continue. Begin is saying that Resolution 242 is the basis for Israel's negotiations with all its neighbors (which means Jordan, too). Begin is making it plain that the question of withdrawal will be discussed subordinate to Resolution 242 (which, as stated, applies to the negotiation to take place between Israel and Jordan and which will deal with the West Bank).

Begin has an ideological and emotional difficulty in saying anything more specific. In his own eyes he is a man of principle and he cannot permit himself to openly state that there will be no settlements, that Resolution 242 applies to the West Bank, that there will be a withdrawal (of whatever sort) from Judaea and Samaria. The formulations he chose are indirect, shifted, but they certainly show a willingness to carry out what he is not prepared to formulate in public. In order to strengthen my claim about Begin's (relative) flexibility, it is worth looking at the role played by Dayan. His formulations are more striking and more specific. He said in the Knesset this week that Resolution 242 applies to all the sectors. He has been wanting for the last 4 months to incorporate Jordan into the negotiations process (a process all of whose logic springs from willingness to give back to Husayn control or territory in the West Bank) and Begin is not containing it.

A senior minister this week commented that Dayan is playing a role similar to that played by Yigal Allon when he was foreign minister, when at the time he proposed giving the Gaza Strip to Jordan, while Minister Yisra'el Galili had previously declared the annexation of the strip to the State of Israel (a wish which was not realized). The trouble is that Carter's administration does not take Begin's temperament into account and it is not making it easy for him to escape through the back window of the ideological tower up which he climbed so high before he was prime minister. Instead of the five principles which are formulated in a positive tone, which Begin took with him to Washington, Brzezinski and his friends circulated a six-point document uncovering Begin's 'no's'.

These are as follows: He is not prepared to freeze the establishment of settlements in Judaea and Samaria; he is not prepared to concede any settlement in Sinai; he is not prepared to hand over the defense of the Sinai settlements to the UN forces or Egyptian forces (Israel proposed that the settlements should be under the aegis of the United Nations but under the supervision of an Israeli Defense Force); he refuses to commit himself to withdrawal from any part of Judaea and Samaria and the Gaza Strip; he refuses to state that Resolution 242 applies to all the fronts; he is not prepared to hold a referendum in the territories at the end of 5 years of the autonomy program.

It is worth pausing over the question of what 5 years will do after the autonomy program is brought into operation. In the peace program initiated by Begin it says that, at the end of 5 years, the autonomy regime will be reexamined and any change to be made in it is to be agreed on by all parties involved (Israel, the local inhabitants and Jordan, if it is a partner to the settlement). The United States is the one who proposed, in December 1977, incorporating this clause into the program and Begin agreed. This is the key clause in the program and it may be assumed that progress in the negotiations will be based on a development of this clause, which gives the autonomy regime a temporary nature. Beyond the practical significance, this paragraph hints at far-reaching changes: 5 years after the autonomy program is applied, Menahem Begin will not be prime minister. He has declared that he intends to serve for only one term of office.

This means: It is true that Begin today represents a difficulty in a future solution to the West Bank, but he will not be in active national office during the period when the settlement will be reexamined. Would it not be worthwhile for the Americans to hold on to this option, in order to spur As-Sadat on to hurrying up with the negotiations?

Carter and his group of advisers are not showing any tendency toward making things easier for Begin. On the contrary, they are presenting him as an intransigent and obstinate man making the continuation of the negotiations difficult. We feel a desire to advise Washington to show consideration for Mr Begin's temperament to the same extent that it is demonstrating understanding for As-Sadat's personality.

INDIA

MAGISTRATE DENIES ANY ATTEMPT ON MRS GANDHI'S LIFE

BK0216202Y Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 2 Apr 78 BK

[Text] The district magistrate of Muzafarnagar in Uttar Pradesh has denied that any attempt was made on the life of Mrs Indira Gandhi at Khitauli on Friday.

He told newsmen that some unknown persons threw stones on Mrs Gandhi's car while she was returning from a public meeting. The driver of the car was injured and was given first aid by the government doctor.

INDIA-MALAYSIA COMMUNIQUE ON FOREIGN MINISTERS TALKS

BK0110342Y Delhi ISI in English 0835 GMT 1 Apr 78 BK

[India-Malaysia Joint Communique]

[Text] On the invitation of the minister of external affairs of India, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Malaysia Tengku Ahmad Rithauddeen bin Ismail paid an official visit to India from March 29 to April 1, 1978. During his visit the minister of foreign affairs of Malaysia was received by the president of India and the prime minister. The foreign minister of Malaysia had discussions with the minister of external affairs and the minister of education, social welfare and cultural affairs of India. During his stay in India the foreign minister of Malaysia and his party visited Delhi, Agra and Bombay.

The foreign minister of Malaysia and the minister of external affairs of India exchanged views on bilateral relations as well as the current international and regional issues of common interest. These discussions took place in an atmosphere of friendship, cordiality and understanding which traditionally characterise India-Malaysian relations. The two sides noted with deep satisfaction the close identity of views on various issues of mutual interest.

Both ministers noted with satisfaction the continuing consolidation of their bilateral relations and progress in friendly cooperation between Malaysia and India in different fields, a testimony to long historical and cultural ties between the two countries. They reaffirmed the determination of their governments to further strengthen and expand the economic, cultural and other ties between the two countries. As a manifestation of this desire the two ministers welcomed the signing of a cultural agreement during the visit.

The foreign minister of Malaysia informed the minister of external affairs of India of the developments in Malaysia and efforts at achieving socio-economic progress. The foreign minister of Malaysia also acquainted the minister of external affairs of India on various aspects of Malaysia's foreign policy, particularly with reference to the promotion of regional cooperation and understanding in Southeast Asia. The minister of external affairs of India expressed his government's understanding and appreciation of the Malaysian policies.

The minister of external affairs of India informed the foreign minister of Malaysia of the developments in India. He explained the various measures taken by India for economic development and for the improvement of the living standards of the Indian people. He also gave the foreign minister of Malaysia a broad outline of the foreign policy of the new Government of India. The foreign minister of Malaysia expressed his government's appreciation of these policies and the progress achieved in this regard.

The minister of external affairs of India informed the foreign minister of Malaysia of the recent developments which had enlarged the area of understanding and improved the political climate in the subcontinent. The two ministers took note of the significant improvements in relations among the countries of the region. While expressing appreciation of the constructive role played by India in this regard the foreign minister of Malaysia agreed with the minister of external affairs of India that good neighbourly and mutually beneficial cooperation among the states of the subcontinent would release the vast resources of the rapid socioeconomic development of the region. [sentence as received]

The two sides recognised that economic development in a climate of peace was the overriding desire of all countries in South and Southeast Asia. They agreed that regional and subregional cooperation in Asia would contribute to the consolidation of the political and economic independence of the countries of the region and would promote peace, progress and stability in the region. In this respect, the two ministers recognised the importance of the ASEAN in promoting economic, cultural and social cooperation in Southeast Asia.

Reviewing the situation in the Indian Ocean the two ministers urged all great powers and major maritime users to extend their full cooperation to the littoral and hinterland states in the implementation of the UN proposals declaring the Indian Ocean as a zone of peace, free from tension and great power rivalry. They welcomed the talks between the United States and the USSR on the limitation of their naval presence in the Indian Ocean as a first step in this direction. The two ministers also reiterated their continued support for the establishment of a zone of peace, freedom and neutrality in southeast Asia. In this connection, they welcomed the growing ties of cooperation and understanding among the states of the region.

The two ministers reaffirmed their faith in the principles of the UN Charter and reiterated their determination to contribute to the strengthening of the role and effectiveness of the United Nations.

The two ministers reaffirmed their adherence to and the continuing validity of the policy of nonalignment and stressed the role of the nonalignement movement as an important force in promoting peace and understanding among the nations as well as in establishing a more equitable international economic relationship between the developed and developing nations. In this connection, they expressed the hope that the forthcoming bureau meeting at the foreign ministers level in Kabul would take meaningful steps towards the fulfillment of the goals of the movement and expressed their readiness to cooperate wholeheartedly with other member states for the success of the Kabul meeting as well as the coming meeting of the foreign ministers of the nonaligned countries in Belgrade in July 1978.

The two ministers agreed that a complete halt to the arms race and universal and complete disarmament under effective control would not only help to eliminate tensions but would also release the vast resources that could be diverted for development and for securing the general well-being of mankind. In this connection, they welcomed the forthcoming special UN session on disarmament and expressed the hope that this session would take positive steps in this direction and give priority to the cessation of all testing and production of nuclear weapons and to the progressive reduction and final elimination of the existing stockpiles.

On the situation in west Asia, the two ministers felt that the existing situation continued to pose a serious threat to world peace and reaffirmed the necessity of urgently moving towards a just settlement in accordance with the UN resolutions. They emphasised that for any such settlement to be durable to legitimate, inalienable rights of the Palestinian people including the right to establish a homeland of their own must be respected. In this connection, they condemned the establishment by Israel of new settlements in the occupied Arab territories in violation of the UN Charter and UN resolutions.

The two ministers reaffirmed their solidarity with the people of southern Africa and their support to the struggle against racial discrimination and colonialism. They condemned the policy of apartheid practiced by the South African regime and supported the struggle of the people of South Africa for political, economic and social justice. They reaffirmed their determination to see an early end to the illegal minority regime in Zimbabwe and denounced the so-called "internal settlement" reached by this regime. They expressed their sympathy for the nationalists of Zimbabwe and called for early elections based on "one man one vote." They also called for the immediate accession of Namibia to complete independence.

The two ministers stressed the positive contribution of detente to the relaxation of international tension but felt that the process of detente needed to be extended to all regions of the world and all international problems. In this connection, they recognized that relations between states must be guided by the generally accepted principles of the renunciation of the use of force, threat of force in international relations, respect for each other's sovereignty, inviolability of frontiers, non-interference in each other's internal affairs, cooperation in economic and other fields on the basis of equality and mutual benefit and the right of each people to choose their own political and social systems.

Both ministers expressed concern over the lack of progress towards a new international economic order based on justice and the concept of interdependence of states. They expressed their disappointment that in spite of the concerted efforts by the international community to resolve the north-south issues the related negotiations are still characterised by a general lack of positive attitude on the part of the developed countries. They reiterated their support for the integrated programme of commodities and urged the immediate establishment of a common fund to promote the interest of the producers of primary commodities.

The two ministers shared the view that the visit of the Malaysian foreign minister had made a notable contribution to the further strengthening of long standing friendly ties between Malaysia and India. They were convinced that both sides should undertake to promote more and regular visits of this nature.

The minister of foreign affairs of Malaysia extended an invitation for the external affairs minister of India to make an official visit to Malaysia. The invitation was accepted with pleasure.

The minister of foreign affairs of Malaysia expressed his deep gratitude to the Government of India for the warm and cordial welcome and hospitality extended to him and members of his party during their stay in India.

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